



## Significant shorts

**Mr Harry Hyams: an apology**

In the course of an essay entitled "Fosterland" in *The Independent* (18 December 1996), Jonathan Glancey suggested that Harry Hyams kept Centre Point empty for many years in the hope of a rise in the value of office rents. We accept that this allegation is false and without foundation. *The Independent* and Jonathan Glancey apologise to Mr Hyams for making this suggestion and have paid him a substantial sum in damages together with his full legal costs.

**Gang storms airport protest camp**

More trouble broke out at the Manchester airport protest against the construction of a 117m new runway yesterday after a gang of up to 30 outsiders tried to break into the peace camp.

Cheshire police blamed outsiders for the latest confrontation with the police. They had arrived at the site in the middle of the night in taxis and there was conflict when the protesters refused to let them on site. Two of the men, aged 37 and 38, were arrested in connection with allegations of criminal damage to a fence, a police spokeswoman said. They have been bailed to appear before Crewe magistrates on 30 May. It was unclear whether they were vigilantes intent on attacking the camp or would-be infiltrators advocating further opposition to the runway expansion.

The runway contractors, AMEC and Tarmac, are to go to the High Court on Thursday to begin eviction proceedings against the protesters.

Louise Jury

**Sion Jenkins wins £250,000 bail**

Deputy headmaster Sion Jenkins, who is charged with the murder of his 13-year-old foster daughter, Billie-Jo, was yesterday released on £250,000 bail.

After an emergency application to Lewes Crown Court, Jenkins, 39, was freed on conditional bail. Last week, he was remanded in custody for a month after being charged with the murder on 14 March. He has spent two weeks in custody.

Mr Jenkins' solicitor, Brendan Salsbury, was unavailable for comment.

Billie-Jo was bludgeoned to death with a metal tent spike at the family home in Lower Park Road, Hastings, on 15 February.

**Late reprieve for Jamaican girl**

The seven-year-old girl facing deportation to a Jamaican orphanage has today had her return deferred after Jamaican social services requested further information on the case.

Whitney Forrester was due to be sent away today, despite pleas from her natural father Gilroy, who has lived in this country for nearly seven years, that he was able and willing to care for her.

Solicitors for Whitney's family had claimed that the JSS were not aware of the fact and yesterday received a fax asking for her return to be deferred as a result of "recent developments" until further information is provided. The case will be considered again on 4 April.

Glenda Cooper

**Judge rejects sex offenders' claim**

Five convicted sex offenders who deny they are guilty yesterday lost a test case challenge to the way Home Secretary Michael Howard has handled their cases.

A judge rejected their claim that Mr Howard was operating a "rigid and over-strict" policy which unfairly and unlawfully blocked early parole and enhanced privilege because their claims of innocence meant they could not take part in the prison sexual offenders' treatment programme (SOTP).

Rejecting their application for judicial review, Mr Justice Laws said "the very gravity" of the original offences meant that the starting-point for improving their conditions, or considering the question of parole, had to be whether they posed an "unacceptable future risk". He said: "It could only be dispelled by some material to show that the offender has changed, is motivated to avoid such conduct if and when he is released."

**Marconi archive is saved for nation**

One of Britain's most important privately owned archives, the Marconi collection, is to be saved for the nation.

GEC-Marconi is donating to the Science Museum 5,000 documents and 300 items of early wireless equipment associated with Guglielmo Marconi, the man who invented the world's first radio transmitter. The collection had been due to be sold at Christie's next month, but, following adverse press and TV publicity, GEC-Marconi cancelled the sale and decided to donate the collection to the nation.

All the documents and most of the early wireless items are likely to be housed in a new museum in Chelmsford, Essex, the town where Marconi established the world's first wireless factory in 1895.

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## people



The eyes have it: Mel B of the Spice Girls shows her appreciation after being named Female Spectacle Wearer of the Year. Comedian Vic Reeves topped the poll for men. (Photograph: PA)

**Spiderman ready to grapple with the ultimate challenge**

**A**lain Robert has finally got what he wants: permission to climb the world's tallest building, without ropes or mechanical aids. Mr Robert, 34, a French rock climber, was yesterday given clearance by the Malaysian government to climb the Petronas twin towers, which are 452 metres (1,483 ft) high, on 5 April. Last week he reached the 60th floor of the 88-storey buildings on an unauthorised attempt, before being pulled in through a window by policemen.

Mr Robert is well known to police forces around the world. His arrival in a country usually presages an attempt to scale its highest building unaided. He has climbed skyscrapers including the Empire State Building in New York, Canary Wharf in London, the Far East Finance Center in Hong Kong and the Golden Gate Bridge in San Francisco. A recent attempt to climb the Sydney Tower was stopped by police.

His exploits have earned him the nicknames of "Spiderman", "the human fly" and (less generously) "madman", though professional climbers tend to regard his efforts with disdain, even the Petronas Towers are comparatively short

climbs by mountaineering standards. However, the consequence of a slip, whether through carelessness or fatigue, would be fatal. He plans to train for next week's attempt with a rigorous schedule involving push-ups with one hand, one elbow and even one finger. During the climb he will have are his hands and a pair of sticky rubber shoes, though he could rest on various features of the building.

Robert has pledged to raise funds for charity with the climb, his latest adventure since he began scaling buildings at the age of 13. In Kuala Lumpur, he said he hoped to "make plenty of money" from the climbing show. He will retain 10 per cent of the collections. It was not clear whether television rights would be sold for the event or whether authorities planned to charge spectators. Asked if he was scared of falling, Robert simply said: "I have climbed really difficult ones and succeeded."

The Malaysian government said it had decided to grant permission in appreciation of his abilities, and also because it would generate publicity for the world's tallest building, owned by the national oil company, Petronas.

Charles Arthur

**Bush takes a giant leap into big blue yonder**

The former US president, George Bush, 72 years young, took to the skies over the Arizona desert yesterday to make the second parachute jump of his life, and his first "for fun".

Wearing a snazzy red, white and blue flying suit, provided by the US Parachute Association, and flanked by two of the US Army's crack Golden Knights parachutists, Mr Bush (right) leapt out of the plane over the Yuma army base, landing 20 minutes later without mishap.

Asked how he felt, Mr Bush – who was not known for demonstrativeness or exuberance as president – made a thumbs-up gesture and said: "Like that!"

It was almost 53 years since Mr Bush had made his first jump – for his life – when his fighter plane was shot down by the Japanese over the Pacific during the Second World War. The other two crew members were killed, but Mr Bush survived, winning the Distinguished Flying Cross for bravery. Ever after, he was said to have promised himself that he would one day make a parachute jump that was not an emergency.

Fun or not, nothing was left to chance yesterday. Eight hours of training and a thorough medical check preceded the jump. And although a civilian plane was used, the two Golden Knights held the

former president on a harness until his parachute opened at 4,500 feet. An emergency medical team stood by on the ground, just in case.

With his successful jump yesterday, Bush neatly turned the tables on his youthful vanquisher of the 1992 presidential election. Bill Clinton has now graduated to crutches, since turning up in a wheelchair for the Helsinki summit with Boris Yeltsin after damaging his knee in the singularly unadventurous act of falling downstairs.

Before the jump, a spokeswoman for the regional branch of the US Parachute Association said – in words that will provide consolation to any aspiring septuagenarian skydiver: "He's in good health, fit and perfectly capable of doing it." As, indeed, he proved.

Mary Dejevsky, Washington

**Honesty is best, says charity chief**

James Deutsch, a 33-year-old biologist, who is HIV-positive, is to become the new chief executive of the Aids charity, Crusaïd. By openly admitting his condition, Mr Deutsch, who is currently a lecturer in the Biology Department at Imperial College, London, is hoping to help change attitudes to HIV in Britain.

"I think Britain has been surprisingly lacking in public people who have HIV and talk about it. People's understanding has suffered as a result," said Mr Deutsch, who is originally from New York, but has lived in England for 10 years.

"Most of us who are gay have had to go through a period when we have had to lie about it. Having got through that, you usually do not want to go through any further periods of deception," he added.

Crusaïd is a fund-raising publicity generating charity, with an income of about £1.3m, which gives grants to smaller Aids charities and administers a small hardship fund for people with HIV and Aids.

Deutsch, who was educated at Harvard University and King's College, Cambridge, believes that Aids and HIV is in a transition period, between being an untreatable fatal disease and a manageable chronic illness. "Developments in treatment over the last year have made it less obvious that charitable giving is still necessary. But people still need information, so that they can decide whether or not they want to be tested and what treatment they need."

Anabel Ferriman



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## briefing

## TRANSPORT

**Computer model sees birth of the virtual road-hog**

Virtual road-hogs have been created in the first computer-generated traffic model to simulate the temperament of drivers. The programme is able to categorise motorists as "timid", "ideal", "normal", "impatient" or "aggressive". If adjusted to worsen motorists' driving by making them more aggressive or hesitant, it is possible to set up crashes. Jams, road blockages and the effect on traffic of slow or speedy vehicles can also be reproduced.

The model, invented by computational physicist Dr Laurence Howe, is designed to help motorway planners by simulating realistic traffic situations. Other computer models show the effect of dense traffic flow, hold-ups and speed limits. But Dr Howe's system adds a human dimension by including motorists' moods.

Drivers' characteristics are determined by factors like how close they approach the vehicle in front, the speed at which they change lanes, and their personal reaction times to incidents. Details of the different types of vehicle, describing their speed, engine power, weight, length and braking time, are also entered.

Dr Howe will present the model tomorrow at the Institute of Physics Annual Congress in Leeds.

## TECHNOLOGY

**The power of speech on the move**

From next week, mobile-telephone users in Singapore will quite literally be able to call people they want to talk to. SingTel Mobile, the monopoly supplier of mobile services, is offering subscribers voice recognition software which will let them record their own voices saying up to 30 names, with the corresponding phone numbers. When the system hears the owner saying the name, it will automatically dial the number. SingTel Mobile said the service would be useful for dialling numbers while driving, and would also be a boon for the blind.

The initiative is part of a wider effort by the Singapore government to make the country as technologically advanced as possible, in which it is introducing competition in the telecom industry and expanding computer provision across government and business - while keeping its strict censorship and behaviour laws intact.

Charles Arthur

## SOCIETY

**Young live in fear of homelessness**

Four out of five young people are more scared of being homeless than of being unemployed, according to a major new survey on behalf of Shelter. And 60 per cent said that they would not know which services to turn to if they were made homeless.

The survey of more than 1,000 young people aged 16-25 was commissioned by the homeless charity and the Midland Bank, which today launches a £1m study aimed at getting young people off the streets.

Three-quarters of those surveyed believed it was difficult or very difficult to get a permanent home. And nearly six out of 10 wanted more information to be provided through schools.

An estimated 140,937 young people were homeless, according to last year's National Inquiry into Youth Homelessness.

Glenda Cooper



## AVIATION

**Curbs urged on daredevil pilots**

Daredevil pilots could face tough new curbs after figures released by the Civil Aviation Authority showed human error was the main cause of fatal crashes. Ill-judged "low-altitude aerobatics" were responsible for nearly one in five of light aircraft fatal accidents from 1985-94, the CAA said yesterday.

The authority is recommending that private pilot licence-holders should be banned from performing solo aerobatics until they hold a special aerobatic rating.

Pilots would also have to have a proficiency check with an authorised flying instructor every two years and trainees would have to attend special training.

The research also showed that 20 per cent of accidents were caused by poor navigation and another one in five crashes were due to bad weather. There were 166 fatal accidents involving light aircraft and helicopters between 1985 and 1994, with 234 people killed in planes and 46 in helicopters.

Randeeep Bhattacharya

## HEALTH

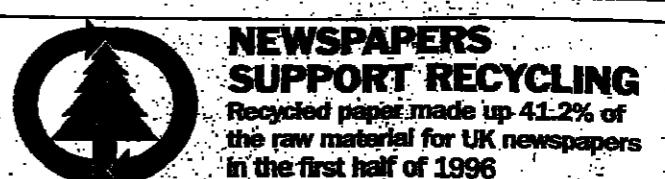
**Cancer link to HRT refuted**

Doctors should not rule out prescribing hormone replacement therapy to women who have had breast cancer, according to new research from the University of California.

A group of 145 women, all of whom had breast cancer, were treated with oestrogen for an average of two and a half years. The incidence of cancer recurrence was comparable to that of patients who did not take oestrogen. Of the test group, 129 are still alive and show no sign of the cancer coming back; 13 had a recurrence, two died of ovarian cancer and one of endometrial cancer.

Dr Wendy Brewster, who is to present her results at the annual meeting of the Society of Gynaecological Oncologists in Phoenix, Arizona, said that since oestrogen supplements protected against a wide range of diseases, including osteoporosis and heart disease, and that most women with breast cancer will die of some other cause, they should not be denied "the opportunity to protect their health and quality of life".

Anabel Ferriman



# Oscar night triumph: British film sweeps the board as producers' struggle falls under spotlight

## Good news for the Patient, but film industry remains in casualty

**Rob Brown**  
Media Editor

**With The English Patient** pulling off an unprecedented Oscar triumph yesterday should have been a day of wild celebration for everyone associated with movie-making on this sceptred isle, but the director of the British Film Institute, Wif Stevenson, had no difficulty containing himself.

Naturally, Mr Stevenson warmly welcomes the fact that a British film had scooped nine Academy Awards, but he remains disturbed by the fact that Britain is making more and more movies which no one in this country will ever see.

"It's a cold old mountain," he declares gloomily, pointing to statistics which show that half the films made in the UK do not receive any sort of domestic cinema release, being cast aside by the American giants which dominate distribution in Britain.

"It's ridiculous and strange; it's a market failure to have great films which no one sees," sighs Mr Stevenson, who warns that a glut in British films is now a real danger.



Epic passion: Ralph Fiennes and Kristin Scott Thomas in *The English Patient*. Such successes are all too rare for an industry in which many films never see the light of day

Industry and always has been. But in Britain we don't have a distribution industry. What we have is a cottage industry struggling to turn itself somehow into a world force again."

The only sign of hope on the horizon is that a number of consortia bidding for the lottery franchises, designed to create mini studios in this country are proposing to combine production and distribution. The franchises are due to be awarded in mid-May.

Whatever the outcome, the BFI must recognise, in the words of its director, that "concentration on film production to the exclusion of distribution is foolhardy".

If they want their films to get wider distribution, British filmmakers will also have to give them wider appeal.

The BFI has frequently

drawn attention to the growing tendency for British films to be aimed at an older, minority audience.

This contrasts markedly with the vast bulk of Hollywood product, which is pitched at teenagers and young adults, who are the most frequent cinema goers.

The only British film to have seriously bucked this trend was *Four Weddings and a Funeral*, which topped the British box office in 1994, grossing a whopping £27m.

Indeed, this was one of just two UK films to recoup its production costs entirely from UK box office sales. It earned 13 times what it cost to make in this country alone. And it took \$53m in the US, where the people who dominate world cinema were all too delighted to distribute it.

**David Lister**

It is not just the success of *The English Patient* that is the talk of Hollywood today. The Oscars have given movie buffs a host of new heroes, stars

who will now command multi-million dollar salaries although they were virtually unknown a year ago.

Geoffrey Rush, the Australian actor who played the pianist David Helfgott in *Shine*, will now be wooed by the Hollywood studios previously unaware of his existence.

And a new breed of actress could at last grace Hollywood

movies following the triumph of Frances McDormand whose delightfully whimsical performance as the pregnant police chief in the comedy thriller *Fargo* won her best actress, beating off British opposition from Kristin Scott Thomas, Brenda Blethyn and Emily Watson.

Leading British film producer David Parfitt commented yesterday that one outcome of this year's Oscars would be to make Hollywood studios more daring. Interesting actresses such as McDormand and Blethyn – far from the typical Beverly Hills glamourpusses – will make the studios' choose less bland fare, he predicted.

The principal award winners

at the Oscars were: best film *The English Patient*; best director Anthony Minghella (*The English Patient*); best actor Geoffrey Rush (*Shine*); best actress Frances McDormand (*Fargo*); best supporting actor Cuba Gooding (*Jerry Maguire*); best supporting actress Juliette Binoche (*The English Patient*).

There was British success for Andrew Lloyd Webber and Tim Rice for best original song for "You Must Love Me" in *Evita*, and for Rachel Portman for best original musical or comedy score for *Emma* — the first time a female composer had even been nominated.

British producer Eric Abraham also set a precedent by win-

ning an Oscar for best foreign language film with *Koh-i-nor*, a low-budget Czech film. The biggest British disappointment was *Mike Leigh's Secrets And Lies* which failed to win any award despite five nominations.

Lauren Bacall failed to make best supporting actress category, but there were cheers for younger old favourite, Muhammad Ali. *When We Were Kings*, about his 1974 fight with George Foreman, won best documentary feature.

Best original screenplay went to Ethan and Joel Coen for *Fargo*; screenplay adaptation to Billy Bob Thornton for *Sling Blade*; and visual effects to *Independence Day*.

## New heroes for movie buffs

# Judge courts legal fury by jailing 'no verdict' jurors

**Patricia Wynne Davies**  
Legal Affairs Editor

A judge who controversially jailed two women jurors for failing to reach a verdict mounted an outspoken defence of his actions last night, saying juries must recognise their responsibilities if the criminal justice system is to be upheld.

Is what is believed to be the first decision of its kind in more than three centuries, Judge Anora Cooley split legal opinion

ion after he sentenced Bonnie Schot, 20, and Carol Barclay, 32, to 30 days for contempt of court on Monday after they cited "personal reasons" for not participating in the jury's deliberations in a counterfeit currency trial at Knightsbridge Crown Court in London.

The £100,000 17-day prosecution against five defendants, followed by a four-hour summing up, had to be abandoned and a new one ordered at an additional cost of £150,000.

Ms Schot, the jury foreman, who had been planning to study law, later said from Holloway jail: "There wasn't enough evidence for me to reach a decision... I just didn't understand it."

As penal groups castigated what they said was an indefensible use of imprisonment, the 61-year-old judge became the latest judicial figure to resort to issuing a statement through the Lord Chancellor's Department, to defend his actions.

The pair were freed on bail yesterday, pending an appeal. Asked outside prison what she thought of the judge, Ms Schot said: "He's a very spiteful and vindictive man."

Paul Cavadino, chairman of the Penal Affairs Consortium, warned: "If jurors who generally do not understand the evidence in a complicated trial are pressured into bringing in a verdict, this is likely to produce unjust convictions or wrongful acquittals."

Judges generally look on such representations sympathetically in the interests of convening a jury that will stay the course.

Leroy Redhead, the barrister representing the two women, said Ms Barclay had told the court she could not ethically

judge anyone and find them guilty or not guilty, despite having sworn to reach a verdict according to the evidence at the start of the trial.

The judge said in his statement that the jury "knew full well that they had ample means available to them to inform the court immediately if they were confronted with any difficulties". He added: "I was satisfied that [the women's] refusal to participate in the jury's deliberations constituted a clear contempt of court."

All commentators condemned Judge Cooley. A spokesman for the Law Society, the solicitors' professional body, said: "The jury system is a vital part of our system of justice. If

you do go on a jury, you have responsibilities which shouldn't be taken lightly. Simply opting out is not acceptable."

The controversy comes when the jury system is already under fire for its alleged inability to cope with complicated fraud cases and for its expense.

If it were reelected, a Conservative government would take steps to remove thousands of cases from the system altogether and have them heard summarily by magistrates.

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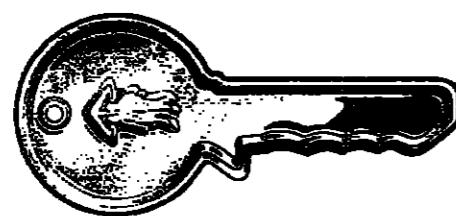
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4  
news

# Mobile phone charges to fall

Chris Godsmark  
Business Correspondent

The cost of calling a mobile phone – one of the least understood charges levied on British consumers – is set to plunge by a third following intervention yesterday by the industry watchdog, Ofcom.

Ownership of cellular phones is no longer confined to thrutting yuppie executives, the telephone regulator, Don Cruickshank said, yet the industry has failed to make private consumers aware of the true

cost of ringing a cellular phone from a standard British Telecom residential line.

Under the proposals, Cellnet, Vodafone, and BT would have to knock about 10p a minute off incoming call charges on mobile handsets, which currently average 32p a minute. Out of this the mobile networks take about 75 per cent of the revenues, with BT picking up the rest.

The reduction would knock tens of millions of pounds off

the revenues of the mobile companies just as they appear to be on the verge of another painful price war.

In a clear demonstration of the increasingly tough approach by utility regulators, Mr Cruickshank warned he may have to force them to comply. "My firm view is that prices are too high, which means the industry can act or I will."

Calling a mobile phone from a BT line during the day can be

very costly, because the call needs to be routed on to the cellular network in much the same way as an outgoing call. Ringing the Vodafone or Cellnet networks, responsible for 80 per cent of the 6.8 million mobiles in the UK, costs 37.5p a minute from a BT line during weekdays. Only at weekends does the cost drop to a more bearable 12.5p.

The two smaller operators, Orange and One2One, used to have much lower charges for in-

coming calls from BT lines, but in a controversial move last month they went up by almost 100 per cent, to at least 30p a minute.

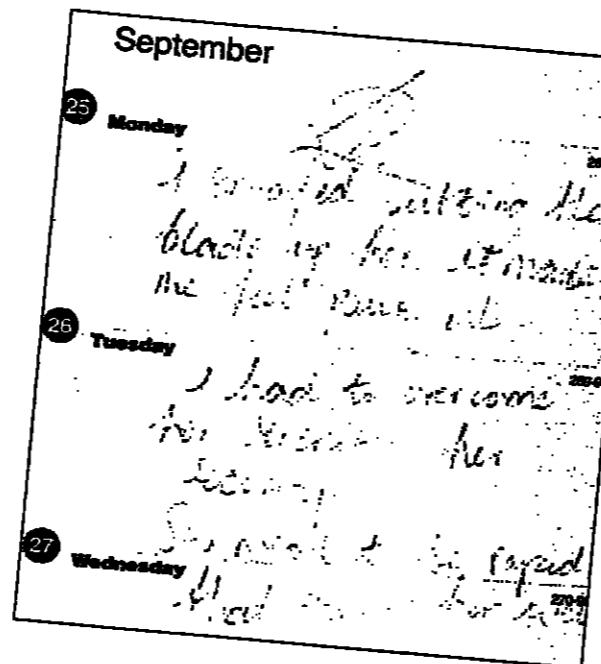
None of the mobile networks has disclosed what they make from incoming calls, though Mr Cruickshank estimated combined revenues for BT, Cellnet and Vodafone were about £50m, a claim which angered Vodafone. Terry Barwick, director of corporate

affairs, said Ofcom's figures were "a bit off the wall".

He added: "People will assume our profits are going to fall by tens of millions of pounds, which they won't."

Last night Ofcom and BT seemed to be on another collision course. A BT spokesman said: "We're surprised at this. We maintain that profit margins on our calls to mobiles are the same as for the rest of our network. We'll be trying to find out why they seem too high to Don Cruickshank. They don't seem high to us."

Girl who stabbed hairdresser to death at the age of 12 is detained at Her Majesty's pleasure



**'I was born  
to be a killer.  
Every night  
I see the  
Devil in my  
dreams'**

Kim Sengupta

Sharon Carr, a girl obsessed with death and violence, secured her place in criminal history yesterday as Britain's youngest female murderer.

She had killed at the age of 12 – a savage attack in which a teenage hairdresser was mutilated with 29 stab wounds. The victim, Katie Rackliff, had been picked out at random as she walked home from a nightclub in June 1992.

The trial at Winchester Crown Court was told that in the years that followed, Carr seemed to be exultant over the killing, and yet haunted by it. She was endlessly writing about the murder and drawing pictures of a knife.

Samples of her notes were graphic. In one she said: "I am a killer. Killing is my business – and business is good." In another: "I was born to be a murderer. Killing for me is a mass turn-on and it just makes me so high I never want to come down. Every night I see the Devil in my dreams – sometimes even in my mirror, but I realise it was just me."

Four years after the murder, a diary entry stated: "I bring the knife into her chest. Her eyes are closing. She is pleading with me so I bring the knife to her again and again. I don't want to hurt her but I need to do violence to her ... I need to overcome her beauty, her serenity, her security. There I see her face when she died. I know she feels her life being slowly drawn from her and I hear her gasp. I guess she was trying to breathe."

The air stops in the back of her throat. I know all her life her breathing has worked, but it does not now. And I am joyful."

Were these fantasies of a deeply disturbed mind, as the defence claimed? Or, as the Crown held, the grim memories of an "evil and precocious" schoolgirl who gloried in what she had done? The jury had no doubt.

It was the writings and subsequent verbal confessions that convicted Carr. There was no forensic evidence, but, as the prosecution pointed out, she had knowledge of the murder not available to the public. She graphically described one particular injury, details of which the police had deliberately withheld, and she also knew that a bracelet had been stolen from Katie Rackliff – knowledge that only the killer would have.

In June 1994, almost two years to the day after Katie's murder, Carr attacked a pupil called Ann-Marie Clifford with a knife, for no apparent reason, at Collingwood College Comprehensive in Camberley, Surrey.

While awaiting trial, she was sent to an assessment centre

where she tried to strangle two members of staff. Two counts of actual bodily harm were taken into account when she was convicted of wounding Ann-Marie, and sentenced to be detained at Her Majesty's Pleasure.

At Bulwood Hall young offenders' institution, staff alerted police after Carr began talking about the killing of Katie Rackliff on the telephone to her friends and family and wrote about it in her diaries. She also began to give details of what she had done to a prison officer, on whom she had developed a crush, as well as talking about it to a probation officer.

The Rackliff killing had remained unsolved despite four years of intensive investigation by police. Some of the knife blows that Katie suffered in the attack had gone straight through her body and out the other side. Her sexual organs were mutilated, and her clothes pulled up, although there was no evidence of sexual assault.

Detectives seized Carr's writings and drawings, and questioned her for 27 hours. She gave three different accounts of how Katie had been killed, but in all of them the central theme was she had repeatedly stabbed her.

In two of the versions, Carr said she was with two boys in a car at the time of the attack, and they had engaged in sexual activity with Katie before dumping the body. She named the two

boys. Police interviewed them but they provided alibis for each other, and were eliminated from the inquiry. However, the prosecution could not satisfactorily explain how Katie, who weighed 88 lbs, was dragged across a pavement and around a corner by a 12-year-old girl.

Carr continued with her writing even after being interviewed by the police. In April 1996, the month before she was charged, she wrote: "I am not like one of those pretty girls who break down due to a guilty conscience. Through six and a half years of causing people grief, I still have not found one." On 7 June, her diary read: "Respect to Katie Rackliff. Four years today."

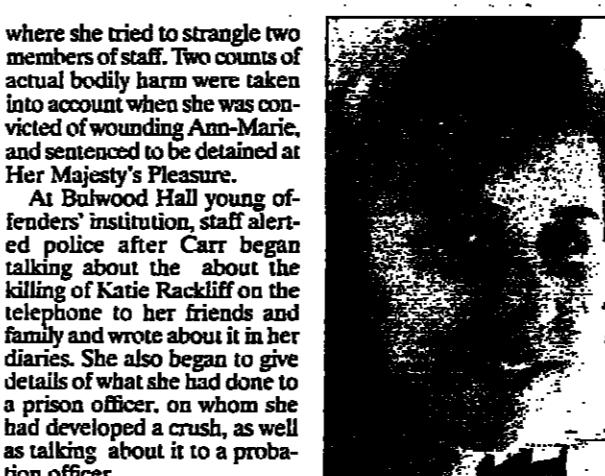
Sadistic violence seemed to be part of her life. Police discovered that she had decapitated a neighbour's dog with a spade, and there was also a "suggestion" from a friend that she had had fried live hamsters. Det Sgt Paul Clements, who interviewed Carr extensively, recalled: "It was almost as if she was in another world. What sticks in my mind about talking to her was the coldness. Most

people that you interview show some feeling as to why they have done what they have done. But with her there was a complete absence of emotion and reason."

Carr was born in Belize in 1981 and was brought up by her mother and stepfather – a soldier. After moving to England the family settled in Camberley, Surrey. Her parents split up and she was briefly fostered, but after a month she returned to the home of her mother. At school, her teachers initially described her as polite and helpful, but her behaviour deteriorated and she became disruptive and attention-seeking.

Criminal psychologist Gordon Tressler said: "This is a difficult case to understand. One can find precedents of young children killing other young children, but in this case it was a child killing someone who was almost an adult."

"This is an extremely dangerous person because she is clearly prepared to kill without an adequate motive. That makes her conduct very unpredictable and very dangerous. She is a great danger to the public."



Katie Rackliff: Her murder baffled police for years

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## election countdown

# Tories raise spectre of trade unions

Barrie Clement and Fran Abrams

The Conservatives yesterday played the trade-union "card" for the first time in the election battle, denouncing Labour's plan for legislation on recognition as a recipe for industrial blackmail.

Tories cancelled a planned statement on school tests by Gillian Shepherd in order to make way for an attack by Michael Heseltine on the dangers of increased union power under Labour. A report in yesterday's *Daily Mail* claiming to have discovered a union "hit-list" of 63 employers prompted the sudden switch of electoral tactics. The list purported to reveal the names of employers which would be "dragged into recognising unions if Tony Blair came to power. Labour plans to impose compulsory recognition where more than

half of a workforce vote for it. The *Mail's* "revelation" led to fresh expressions of concern by employers about the policy and a cock fight between Mr Heseltine and Gordon Brown, shadow chancellor.

It also exposed a serious lack of detail in Labour's policy. The deputy prime minister accused the Opposition of changing its policy three yesterday morning. Earlier Mr Heseltine told journalists it had been a long battle to curb unions since the Winter of Discontent in 1979. "A Labour government could blow it. The evidence states us in the face. Today a shocking revelation: a list of 63 British companies that have been targeted as the first victims of Tony Blair's pay-back to the union bosses.

He said companies would become battlegrounds in which different unions would fight out historic rivalries. "It would

be yesterday's demarcation disputes run riot," he said.

Mr Heseltine said Labour's plans would license industrial blackmail by groups of workers who could disrupt the whole supply chain. The "hit-list" seen by the *Mail* was prepared by the union-backed Labour Research Department for the TUC and was published last week. It is part of a six-month survey of workplaces where unions are seeking recognition. The *Mail* chose to call it a hit-list drawn up in preparation for new legislation. In fact officials in most unions will have in mind hundreds of companies where recognition could be achieved using the legislation.

It became clear yesterday that Labour's plans were by no means fully formed. Spin-doctors ventured that the Central Arbitration Committee could be used to rule in disputes between unions and employers of what constituted 50 per cent of the workforce. Mr Brown suggested it might be a judge. There has been doubt as to whether entire firms or units within firms would be considered. Mr Brown said: "A recognised unit would be something that would have to be agreed not simply by the unions saying that would be the case but agreed usually by employers and employees themselves. But if there were not then by a third party."

He quoted President Ronald Reagan as someone who had endorsed a more prescriptive system in the US. The shadow chancellor said he did not believe there would be very many disputes over recognition. Out of the top 50 companies, 44 already recognise unions.

He would not give examples of workplaces ripe for recognition. In almost all cases deals would be struck as a result of voluntary agreement.

Mr Brown said he would be issuing a point-by-point rebuttal of the *Daily Mail* story.

Unions said the Conservatives were guilty of "hysteria" and "McCarthyism". They preferred to call the "hit-list" a roll-call of exploited workers, where employees could not raise problems of low pay or health and safety issues.

John Redwood campaigning in Wolverhampton yesterday

Photograph: Mike Scott/Newsteam

## Panic stations in Smith Square

Fran Abrams

The Conservative campaign team threw away its script yesterday, in a move which made the party's media strategy appear increasingly panicky.

For the second time this week, an impromptu press conference was thrown at Central Office to make capital out of newspaper stories which were damaging to Labour.

With Labour's rapid-rebuttal machine geared up to respond within an hour to any Conservative statement, the party is trying to tighten up its act. But Labour's campaign organiser, Brian Wilson, accused the Tories of behaving "like drowning men".

An announcement by Gillian Shepherd on school tests, billed for yesterday's morning press conference, was dropped for an attack by Michael Heseltine on Labour plans for trade union recognition, prompted by a report in the *Daily Mail*. Although

Mrs Shepherd appeared at Central Office, her plans for more tests for 14-year-olds were relegated to the fax machine.

On Monday, *The Independent's* revelation that Labour was planning hospital closures was followed belatedly by afternoon press conference hosted by the Health Secretary, Stephen Dorrell.

Although the Conservatives denied they had been forced to change strategy, the sharpness of Labour's machinery has left them feeling exposed.

When *The Independent* published its story in Monday's paper, Labour health spokesman Chris Smith was on the phone to its newsdesk before 1am with a denial. Yesterday's Conservative change of schedule had brought a response from the shadow education secretary, David Blunkett, in ample time for lunchtime broadcasts.

A Conservative spokesman denied that the change of plan revealed any lack of coherence.

## Labour plan for welfare reform

Anthony Bevins  
Political Editor

Labour will increase the share of national income spent on education, and reduce the share spent on unemployment, reversing the trend of the Tory years, Gordon Brown said yesterday.

Commenting on yesterday's *Independent* report on deep cuts in the Education and Employment budget, the shadow Chancellor told a Labour press conference it was true that Government spending on training and employment was being cut.

"It's been cut by 36 per cent since 1991-92," he said.

But Gillian Shepherd, Secretary of State for Education and Employment, told a Conservative press conference: "I fear *The Independent* has got it totally wrong."

"In the first place, it is of course a matter of public record that we have reduced the amount of money we are spending on unemployed people, because the number of unemployed people has reduced."

Mr Brown said: "Training, as well as employment measures, are now suffering. It is indeed one of the reasons why our windfall levy is absolutely essential: to tackle the problem of youth and long-term unemployment and training."

"We've got this amazing situation that the figures this morning in *The Independent* highlight, where unemployment now costs this Government more than education.

"So that is why it will be stated quite specifically in our manifesto, that we will reverse the trend of the Conservative years,

a senior right-wing Tory MP

yesterday defied the Prime Minister's appeal to keep race out of the general election campaign by raising the immigration issue in the Wolverhampton seat where Enoch Powell made his "rivers of blood" speech.

Nicholas Budgen, the Powellite Tory MP for Wolverhampton South West, told a press conference in his constituency office that immigration was an election issue in his seat, whether the Tory high command liked it or not.

John Redwood, who travelled from his seat in Woking, Surrey, to give his backing to Mr Budgen, a fellow Eurosceptic, also toured the constituency, in a clear attempt to display leadership qualities. Mr Redwood insisted it was right for Mr Budgen to challenge Labour over its immigration policy.

An hour earlier, as he toured

a multi-racial school 20 miles away in Birmingham, John Major stood by firm immigration controls but said he did not want immigration to be raised as a partisan issue in the election.

"What I am not prepared to see is this issue raised as a partisan issue because we have seen the most immense improvements in race relations in this country. I intend these improvements should continue."

Mr Budgen said he had always watched immigration, as a local issue, as Mr Major, as the MP for Huntingdon, had to watch the price of wheat. "I thought these silly [Labour] proposals for liberalising immigration controls had been forgotten. It was not until I read in *The Independent* I thought this is something that needs to be investigated."

Mr Budgen told a joint press conference with Mr Redwood in his constituency offices: "The position in Wolverhampton and

the West Midlands is that whole areas have been transformed by immigration. The whole population, white, black and Asian, fully understands the necessity of strict immigration controls as the principle means of the continuation of good race relations."

"If there is to be an attempt to curry favour with Asian organisations by relaxing immigration controls, it becomes an issue. However much the leaders of the Tory party may say they would rather it was not discussed, the issue is... whether the people particularly in affected areas like Wolverhampton want it discussed. What is an election issue is not decided by politicians."

He said Mr Powell had painted the future in "terms which turned out to be excessively dramatic... We haven't had the rivers of blood because we have had strict immigration control".

Prompted by Mr Redwood, He said Mr Powell had painted the future in "terms which turned out to be excessively dramatic... We haven't had the rivers of blood because we have had strict immigration control".

Mr Budgen added: "I am not predicting a future rivers of blood. I am saying that race relations have much improved and we want to ensure they continue to do so."

Mr Redwood said it was perfectly reasonable for Conservative candidates, where it was a matter of interest, to cross-examine Labour about its plans for not implementing the "primary purpose rule" allowing immigrants to bring in their families.

Mr Redwood accused Labour of making it an issue by proposing the changes to the immigration controls.

He added: "I would rather it was - I think it would be much better if it was not a partisan issue."

That is why I am very pleased my party did not raise it, did not take to the electorate proposals for making changes in the immigration policies of this country... Labour have made it an issue."

Publishing a list of 132 Conservative MPs and candidates who are defying the party line on Europe, he said: "A re-elected Conservative Party would be ungovernable and, in the words of the Chancellor himself, would be incapable of being led."



Gordon Brown at Labour's press conference yesterday launching its employment policies

Photograph: Kieran Doherty

## Ugly rumours, purple loons, but drugs? Never

Steve Bognar

He wore purple loons and cowboy boots - he even sang in a band called Ugly Rumours - but unlike his wishy-washy counterpart in America, Tony Blair was never tempted to try drugs.

During his campaign to become President, Bill Clinton admitted to taking a puff of wacky baccy, an admission that became even wackier when he claimed that he didn't inhale.

But there were no such half-measures for Mr Blair. Yesterday, he categorically stated that, despite leading a somewhat Bohemian existence as an undergraduate at Oxford, he had never tried drugs. During questioning at a school in Aberdeen where he announced Labour's proposals for a "drug tsar", a high-powered official with responsibility for co-ordinating the fight against Britain's growing drug problem, he answered the question many had secretly been asking: Was there anyone during the early Seventies who had said no to blow?

Yes there was - Mr Blair. Asked whether he personally had taken drugs, he replied firmly: "No," and said he had

warned his own children about the risks of taking them.

The Labour leader was firm on establishing his anti-drug credentials before launching into his new proposals based on the American post of director of the office of national drug policy, or drug tsar: for short, a man in charge of an \$18bn (£1bn) war chest.

"I believe we need to appoint a figurehead in the battle against drugs - someone who will both lead the fight against drugs and help educate young people not to take them," he said after meeting pupils in an anti-drugs class at the Dyce Academy.

The appointment of such a figure would signal the determination of the Government that it was not prepared to tolerate the waste of young lives. The drug tsar will have clout and direct access to Government, he said. "This appointment will be a clear manifesto commitment. It will be a valuable added weapon against one of the great evils of our time."

Despite referring to the office as an American innovation, officials representing the American drug tsar, General Barry McCaffrey, said they had not co-

ordinated with Mr Blair's team. Don Maple, General McCaffrey's spokesman, said: "They haven't contacted us as far as I'm aware... but I wish you luck." Mr Maple did not wish to gauge the impact the establishment of a drug tsar could have in the UK, but since its creation in America in 1988, the number of drug abusers had fallen from 2.4m to 1.2m, he said.

Mr Blair's initiative coincided with a call from a committee of the Church of Scotland for the legalisation of cannabis to be considered. The Board of Social Responsibility said yesterday that it wants a Royal Commission to be set up to look at legalisation.

Its convener, the Rev Bill Wallace, said: "We are, in effect, saying look before you ever consider leaping into the unknown. The experience of legalising alcohol and tobacco would indicate such a change would be well nigh irreversible."

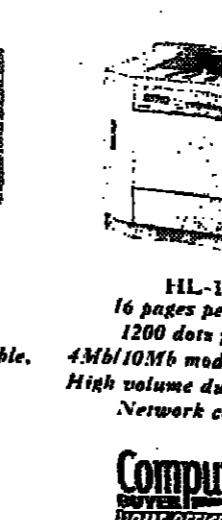
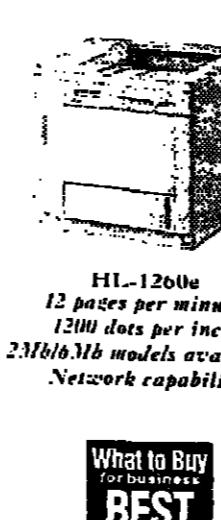
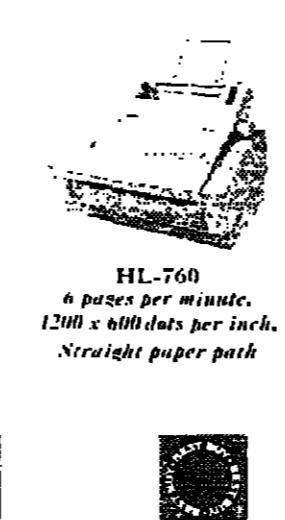
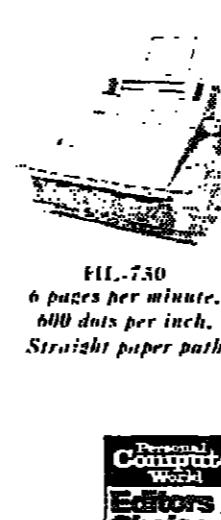
The call followed a survey of more than 2,500 pupils in Scottish secondary schools which found that half had experimented with drugs and a quarter were still using them.

Leading article, page 19

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## Major draws line on Europe

Colin Brown and Anthony Bevins

John Major yesterday ruled out any hardening of the Tories' "wait-and-see" approach to the single European currency before polling day and made it more difficult for the Tories to play the Euro-sceptic card in an attempt to pull off a general election coup against Tony Blair.

Mr Major warned that the pound would rise in value, damaging Britain's exports, if Britain at this stage opted out of a single European currency. His remarks will dismay some Tory Euro-sceptics who believe their campaign to "save the pound" is the only way to save the party from defeat by Labour.

John Redwood, whose book attacking the single currency will be published today, was campaigning yesterday with a leading Euro-sceptic, Nicholas Budgen, in Wolverhampton, only 20 miles from the Prime Minister, and rejected his stance.

Mr Redwood, a former Secretary of State for Wales and the past challenger for his leadership, said: "I am in a different position. I am a backbencher, wishing to help public debate in trying to persuade the Government - when it makes up its mind finally, it makes up its mind by saying no."

Mr Major, campaigning in Birmingham, said: "What we have made clear is we will be there negotiating the single currency to protect Britain's interests. No British prime minister can properly opt out of those negotiations and be in a position to protect British interests. I will be there negotiating on that."

He said that if a weak euro was created, countries putting their money into Europe would target the two remaining strong currencies, the Swiss franc and sterling. "That would put up the exchange rate of sterling."

At Labour's London press conference, the shadow Chancellor, Gordon Brown, said Mr Major would become the prisoner of Tory Euro-sceptics, if another Conservative government was elected on 1 May.

Publishing a list of 132 Conservative MPs and candidates who are defying the party line on Europe, he said: "A re-elected Conservative Party would be ungovernable and, in the words of the Chancellor himself, would be incapable of being led."

From the 150



## election countdown

Plaid Cymru intensifies its focus on devolution for Wales as it launches its campaign for 40 seats  
**Party pins its hopes on tide turning**

**Tony Heath**

Plaid Cymru's focus on devolution was intensified yesterday with a vitriolic attack on Labour when the nationalist party launched its campaign at Cardiff Castle.

The party leader, Dafydd Wigley, who sits on a majority of 14.47% in Caernarfon-Gwynedd, was soon on the offensive: "There is a tide of anger running against Labour's devolution proposals. We're not looking to an assembly as an institution just to make us feel better. It must have real power."

Barring the Conservatives, all parties are committed in some degree to the desirability of shifting power from London to Cardiff. But Labour's proposed referendum – and its wording – is crucial to nationalist aspirations.

Mr Wigley wants a four-part referendum – covering the status quo, Labour's plan, an assembly with law-making powers and full self-government within five years.

"A 'yes' or 'no' referendum would be a waste of time. When we see what's on offer we will

call a special conference to decide our stance," he said. Opponents point out that a four-option ballot paper could lead to an indecisive result and that the option of the status quo would invite a bored electorate to play safe.

The party has yet to recruit a force strong enough to break out from its fastness in rural Welsh-speaking Wales. Attempts to make headway in the heavily populated south have failed, despite some heroic efforts. The low point of the 1991 Monmouth by-election when Screaming Lord Sutch won 314 votes to Plaid's 277 is unlikely to be repeated, but the outlook is cloudy.

The nationalists won four seats in 1992 against Labour's twenty-seven; the Conservatives' six and the Liberal Democrats' one.

A recent survey by National

Opinion Polls and HTV put Labour support at 60 per cent with the Tories on 19 per cent. Plaid on 12 per cent, the Liberal Democrats on 7 per cent and others on 2 per cent. Plaid can take some consolation from Wales's 22 council chambers where it has 115 representatives

to the Conservatives' 41 – and Labour's 731.

Tory support in Wales seems to be going into free fall. Early evidence of nationalist pick up came at the 1994 Euro elections when the party polled 162,478 votes to the Tories' 138,323. But however good that news was for Plaid, the bad news for the party is that in racing terms Labour won that contest by a distance when it triumphed in all five Euro seats with 530,749 votes.

Mr Wigley remains optimistic:

"We are poised to become the main opposition to Labour," he predicted as his troops filed from the castle. But the uneven spread of support remains a stumbling block. Last time round in the eight most urban seats – four in Cardiff and two each in Newport and Swansea – only 8,251 voted for Plaid Cymru. In all, 20 deposits were lost.

Two Plaid seats look safe –

Caernarfon and Meirionnydd Nant Conwy. In Ynys Mon, the Conservative candidate was just over 1,000 votes adrift in 1992 and the Liberal Democrats are anxious to retake Ceredigion and Pembrokeshire North which went to Plaid five years ago.

Not everyone in Wales gives devolution the highest priority. The National Health Service, education and the economic plight of the old south Wales mining valleys figure high on the agenda.

A bitter row over proposals

to close hospitals in rural mid-Wales, the continuing unease over the power of quangos which control around £2bn of Wales's annual spend, and the state of cash-starved schools are grabbing headlines west of Offa's Dyke.

One of Wales's leading political analysts, Denis Balsom, confirms this. "Devolution is important but I can't help pointing out that the emphasis has something to do with the anti-government feeling," he said.

The nationalists are pledged

to fight all 40 Welsh seats – boundary changes have added 2 to the 38 contested in 1992. The party makes its top priority Carmarthen East and Dinefwr, where boundary revisions will test its mettle. Another castle, Carreg Cennen, domi-

nates the latter constituency, but compared with Cardiff's Roman connection it is a youngster of some 800 years old, and probably less likely to fall than Caernarfon's Edward I seal which towers over Mr Wigley's stronghold.



Recruiting force: Dafydd Wigley (centre right) with members of Plaid Cymru carrying the national flower in Cardiff yesterday. Photograph: Rob Stratton

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**History of Welsh nationalism**

Plaid Cymru is firmly rooted in the Welsh language and culture. Today, the ancient tongue is spoken by 500,000 of Wales's 2.9 million people. The party was founded in 1925 largely to challenge the idea of British nationality and reverse the assimilation of Wales by England. Wales briefly sniffed freedom when Owen Glendower held a parliament at Machynlleth in 1404. Plaid hopes for a permanent seat sometime in the next century.

Nationalism gained notoriety in 1981 when the then Plaid leader, Saunders Lewis and two colleagues set fire to a Royal Air Force camp on the Llyn Peninsula in protest at the threat to the Welsh language.

Gwynfor Evans became the first Plaid MP when he won a spectacular by-election at Carmarthen on 14 July 1966. The party has four MPs – Dafydd Wigley, par-

ty president, who holds Caernarfon with a 14.47% majority; Huw Wyn Jones; Ynys Mon, with 7.61%; Elin Jones; Melinonnydd Nant Conwy, 3.19%.

Nationalist life pest Lord Elles Thomas (formerly Bevan Elles Thomas, MP), a one-time Marxist, sits on the Lords cross-bench and chairs the Welsh Language Board, known as "the quango for the bingo". The party has an ambivalent relationship with the Welsh Language Society although several leading members belong.

The nationalist cause was not helped by the activities of the clandestine arsonists Meibion Glyndwr (Welsh for Sons of Glyndwr) in the Eighties when more than 200 holiday homes in Wales were set alight. Plaid explicitly condemns these fire-raisers. Plaid Cymru firmly supports nuclear disarmament.

## Scotland's safest seat seeks heir apparent

**Stephen Goodwin**

The tragicomedy of Allan Stewart's resignation from the safest Tory seat in Scotland could well end in a return to Parliament for Sir Michael Hirst, chairman of the Scottish Conservative Party.

Sir Michael, a 51-year-old company director, is the clear frontrunner after it was confirmed by the party yesterday that Michael Forsyth, the Secretary of State for Scotland, would not abandon his marginal Stirling constituency for the Eastwood safe haven – a predominantly middle-class dormitory to the south of Glasgow.

Mr Stewart's resignation late on Monday evening left Scottish Tories temporarily stunned and delivered a jolt to John Major just hours after he had at last taken the election initiative over the economy.

Mr Stewart's decision followed weekend press reports linking him with a 47-year-old married woman he met last year at a clinic for treating alcohol problems. Catherine "Bunny" White, who has four children,

his parliamentary colleagues quickly gave way to speculation over a successor. Mr Stewart had the biggest Conservative majority in Scotland in the 1992 election – a comfortable 11,688 votes.

Constituency officials described as "preposterous" a suggestion that Mr Forsyth might try and switch to Eastwood. A swing of only 0.3 per cent to Labour would deprive the Secretary of his Stirling seat.

Two other Cabinet ministers, Malcolm Rifkind and Ian Lang, also face tough battles, but party officials in Edinburgh said they did not expect any sitting MP to apply for Eastwood.

In a succession of interviews yesterday, Sir Michael repeatedly avoided ruling himself out – other than a frank admission that if the constituency association wanted "a bright young thing" then he was not in the running.

If Sir Michael was selected, however, it would leave the Tories with a further headache, since as party chairman he is responsible for co-ordinating the election campaign in Scotland.



Stepping down: Stewart's resignation stunned Tories

was said to have stayed at the MP's London flat.

Last Sunday, Mr Stewart, 54, posed for photographs with his wife Susie at their home in Neilston, Strathclyde, but refused to discuss Mrs White. An MP since 1979, he stepped down as a Scottish Office minister after a confrontation with road protesters on the site of the M77 led to a £200 fine for breach of the peace.

Expressions of sadness by

## Propaganda campaign to stop people voting

**Kim Sengupta**

An extensive propaganda campaign is being carried out by extremist political groups to stop people from voting in the general election. Thousands of pamphlets and leaflets have been distributed across the country attacking the main parties, and with the persistent message that nothing can be changed through the ballot box.

The posters are abusive, one has photos of Tony Blair, John Major, and Paddy Ashdown with the headline "wankers", while another urged "Vote Blair for another Tory government, F\*\*\* the election".

The "wankers" poster is produced by the Committee of Public Safety, the one accusing Tony Blair of heralding another Tory government is being distributed by the Anti-Election Alliance.

**ALL POLITICIANS ARE GREEDY LYING SCUM**  
VOTING CHANGES NOTHING

One of the campaign stickers with its anti-voting message

The Anti-Election Alliance's box number leads back to 27 Old Gloucester Street, in Covent Garden, central London. The address houses a telephone message box, as well as box number for a variety of fringe political groups including the Revolutionary Communist Party and the Revolutionary Conservative Caucus.

A series of messages left for Class War eventually led to a call from a man named Dave, who said he represented the organisation. He claimed the politicians "are taking the public for a ride" and claimed the election was a pointless, expensive exercise.

At 27 Old Gloucester Street, Bruno Waterfield, of the Revolutionary Communist Party stated it was certainly opposed to the election, but was not aware the Anti-Election Alliance was part of the RCP.

**Dixons**  
There's a great deal going on

# Army in the glasshouse over racial bias

Christopher Bellamy  
Defence Correspondent

The Ministry of Defence yesterday received a final warning to show real commitment to racial equality or face legal action.

The Commission for Racial Equality said that not enough progress had been made in overcoming blatant racial discrimination in the Army since the MoD signed an agreement with them in March last year.

Yesterday it said it was not satisfied with progress and gave the Army another year to put matters right. If the Army does not do so, the CRE will issue a non-discrimination notice requiring the MoD to take specific actions to be taken to court.

The CRE cited the report from the Office of Public Management, released last week, which gave more disturbing evidence of the "long-gone, long-neglected and deeply entrenched problems of racism within the armed services." The commission was particularly concerned that the MoD had that report for six months - from last September - before it was released.



Solitary figure: Mark Campbell, the first black soldier to join the Sovereign's escort of the Household Cavalry, which a study found was particularly short of non-white soldiers

and that it should have been implementing the action plan which it had agreed with the CRE during that time. "We all know there are few black soldiers in the Army. What we want to know is what they are doing about it," said Chris Myant, a CRE spokesman.

About 1 per cent of the armed forces comes from ethnic minorities compared with about 6 per cent of the workforce as a whole. The Army has slightly more non-white soldiers than the Navy has sailors. But the small number of non-white service men and women

is compounded by instances of blatant racial harassment and abuse. The Office of Public Management report found that some senior officers still condoned these practices.

The action plan agreed last March stipulates two types of activity. The first is monitoring

to establish how many non-white people there are in the forces and their career patterns. The second requires the MoD to come up with workable ways of solving the problem.

When the MoD agreed to implement the plan the CRE said it would withhold a non-dis-

crimination notice for a year and would then abandon it all together if the Army achieved adequate progress. It has not done so, the CRE said, "primarily in the areas which give a measure of the level of commitment and willingness to change attitudes and practice".

A year on, the commissioners yesterday deferred a decision on the use of a non-discriminatory notice for a further year with a six-month progress review in September.

The action plan was launched last year after a study found the Household Cavalry was partic-

ularly short of non-white soldiers, although the problem runs throughout the Army.

Yesterday's report said the Commander of the Household Cavalry had issued a directive and a new recruitment leaflet which, it said, "provide the necessary foundation for equal opportunities in the Household Cavalry." The report also noted progress in encouraging non-white candidates to apply to become officers; the introduction of good systems for collecting ethnic origin information on applicants to join the forces and numerous written instructions and orders.

However, the commissioners reminded the Army that monitoring is only a first step.

A chastened MoD responded yesterday saying: "We are pleased to note that the CRE have recognised the progress that we have made in several areas of race relations and ethnic monitoring."

"We are however disappointed that the CRE has not seen fit to lift the possibility of a non-discriminatory notice and we are considering carefully all the comments they have made."

## ... but Marines stay men-only

Barrie Clement  
Labour Editor

The Royal Marines are to retain their men-only policy for frontline troops for the time being after an industrial tribunal upheld their right to turn down a job application from a woman chef.

But the tribunal asked the European Court of Justice to rule on the legitimacy of British law which allows the armed forces to reject women for some postings on the grounds that they may undermine "combat effectiveness".

Angela Sirdar, an ex-army cook, was turned down because catering staff in the marines are expected to operate as commandos and the marines argue that a woman could not fulfil that role. Mrs Sirdar, 31, contended that the inter-operability principle was a fiction and that there were many marines who were not required to act as combat soldiers. The Equal Opportunities Commission, which backed her case, pro-

duced a male chef as a witness who was 20 stone in weight, who had failed eight physical examinations, and who had been in the marines for 20 years.

However, the tribunal ruled against Mrs Sirdar saying that cooks were indeed expected to retain a primary function as frontline troops. Only members of marine bands are exempted.

The European Court will be expected to decide on whether the "get-out" clause in British law, which allows the armed forces to reject women, should be repealed. The tribunal will then re-examine whether it was lawful to apply the principle of inter-operability to all chefs.

From today, a code of practice on pay issued by the Equal Opportunities Commission will be admissible as evidence in any proceedings under the Sex Discrimination Act. The code sets out methods which employers could use to review pay systems to ensure they are lawful and sets out means of identifying potential discrimination.



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## news

# Miracle of the fishes: How the food stores change frozen into 'fresh'

**Ian Burrell**

Fish which is being sold as "fresh" from the wet counters of supermarkets is often up to a fortnight old, according to new research.

Supermarkets are also confusing customers by freezing fish and defrosting it for sale on the fresh counter. The practice of "selling on the defrost" is becoming increasingly common among supermarkets as trawlers from Britain's shrinking fishing fleet spend longer periods at sea to meet the growing public demand for fish.

Shoppers, who pay up to 40 per cent more for fish from the wet counter, are often unaware that the product was previously frozen and have no way of knowing when their "fresh" fish was caught. Some stores

said that rivals were failing to label defrosted fish.

*The Fish Report*, written by Jan Walsh, an independent consumer expert, was commissioned by Iceland Frozen Foods, which believes that fish sold as frozen has an unfair reputation for lack of taste and value. Its findings were "endorsed 100 per cent" at Steve Hart, a leading fresh fishmonger in Islington, north London. Steve Hart junior, the shop manager, said his customers were normally eating their fish within three days of it being caught and that the huge supermarket operations could not possibly match the freshness of fish sold in traditional high street fishmongers.

John Wood, senior fish technologist at Marks & Spencer, told the report: "Some people are selling 'on the defrost',

which means the fish was frozen but has been defrosted and goes on the counter to be sold as fresh."

Consumer groups said yesterday that many people buying their traditional Good Friday fish were being misled. Tim Lobstein, director of the Food Commission, said: "It's hard to see how fish that has been defrosted is offering additional value over the frozen alternative. I'm not sure shoppers understand exactly what they're being offered in every case. Some supermarkets must be making

a huge profit from this practice." Terry Thresh, owner of the Boyd Line fishing company in Hull, said: "When you see the words 'fresh fish' it's a misnomer. Plenty of trips take 21 days now, if boats go to the Barents Sea, just above Norway. It takes four or five days to get there which means the fish that returns will vary in age but the oldest can be 15 days old. It's kept on ice, just above freezing, and it's completely edible, but it's hardly fresh fish."

When the fish does finally arrive at the quayside the su-

permarket buyers cannot be sure when the fish was caught. Andrew Pepper, a buyer for Tesco, said: "There is no way of telling the exact age of the fish. We have to trust their word."

Harry Davis, of the government's Central Science Laboratory, called for tougher restrictions at quayside, which currently allow inspectors to ban two-week-old fish from sale.

He said: "I think that's too low and not good for the industry. In my view the inspection limit should be higher so that poor-quality fish is never sold."

## Churchman dies after paramilitary beating

**David McKittrick**  
Ireland correspondent

A Belfast Presbyterian minister has died six weeks after suffering a savage "punishment beating" at the hands of loyalist paramilitaries in the city.

The Rev David Templeton was attacked by three men armed with cudgels who broke into his north Belfast home on 7 February. He suffered two broken legs, a suspected fractured skull and puncture wounds in the incident. He had

appeared to be recovering but died in hospital on Monday night, possibly of a heart attack.

Although he had suffered previous health problems - he was the longest surviving kidney transplant recipient in Northern Ireland - police said his death was a direct result of his injuries.

The motivation for the beating appears to relate to an incident 18 months ago when Mr Templeton was searched by customs officers as he returned from Amsterdam and was found to be carrying a pornographic homosexual videotape.

No charges were brought but he resigned as minister of Greyabbey Presbyterian church in Co Down and moved to north Belfast where he lived quietly.

He had a distinguished academic record. Originally a civil servant, he gained an Open University degree and masters degrees from Queen's University, Belfast and Princeton theological seminary in New Jersey.

His presumed homosexuality would have represented sufficient reason for a loyalist attack.

He was the latest of perhaps half a dozen punishment attacks which were apparently designed to injure but which over the years have proved lethal. Such attacks have become almost a matter of routine in Belfast and elsewhere,

though they are rarely fatal. According to the RUC, there have been so far this year 25 loyalist beatings, 14 loyalist shootings, and 33 republican beatings and one shooting. Last year, loyalists carried out 150 beatings and shootings while republicans perpetrated 170 beatings - a rate of almost one assault per day.

Meanwhile, Sir Patrick Mayhew, Secretary of State for Northern Ireland Secretary, has been criticised for announcing that the inquiry into the IRA escape attempt from the Maze prison is to be confined to the Northern Ireland Office.

Up to 95 hardline IRA inmates could have escaped had their tunnel not been detected some 90 feet from the prison's perimeter fence. The inquiry is to be headed by a senior NIO

official, John Steele, who was previously in charge of prisons.

Finlay Spratt, of the Prison Officers Association, dismissed the inquiry as a whitewash, saying that while he did not question Mr Steele's integrity a full independent inquiry was needed.

He added: "I don't think he is the right man for the job. He was the head of the Prison Service before Alan Shannon and, some of the situation at the Maze emanates from when he was in control."

Peter Robinson, deputy leader of the Democratic Unionist Party, described the inquiry as a sham. "This is a feeble and fumbling attempt to con the public into believing that something is being done when in effect it is a recipe for ensuring nothing will be done."

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**Police call for curb on drivers' drug use**

**Jason Bennett**  
Crime Correspondent

Tough new laws to punish motorists who take any form of illegal drug and drive were called for by police chiefs yesterday.

Chief constables want to introduce a "zero limit" for drug users who drive. Anyone caught could face a ban, fine or imprisonment. The police want the new offence to cover all illegal drugs, from cannabis to heroin.

The initiative, by the Association of Chief Police Officers (Acpo), follows estimates that more than 100,000 motorists a year may be driving while under the influence of illegal drugs. There is growing concern about the danger such motorists present to themselves and other road users.

Paul Manning, secretary of the Acpo traffic committee, and Assistant Commissioner in the Metropolitan Police, speaking at a conference on drug-driving in Lincoln, said: "Many of the attitudes and beliefs prevalent in the late Sixties, prior to the advent of the drink-drive legislation, are now being voiced in respect of drug-driving, the most worrying being that drug-taking does not affect my ability to drive or make judgements."

The dangers of drug-driving will need to be brought home to drivers in a powerful way if the problem is to be addressed by self discipline."

The Acpo drugs committee has recommended a new offence that would remove the need to prove impairment - which is currently needed for a prosecution - of a driver under the influence of drugs.

Mr Manning said that a new law to make it an offence to drive with any detectable amount of illegal drug should be introduced. His committee and the Department of Transport are also searching for a roadside drugs kit that could be used to test motorists in a similar way as for alcohol. The DoT is already carrying out a three-year study to discover the number of drug-drivers on the road.

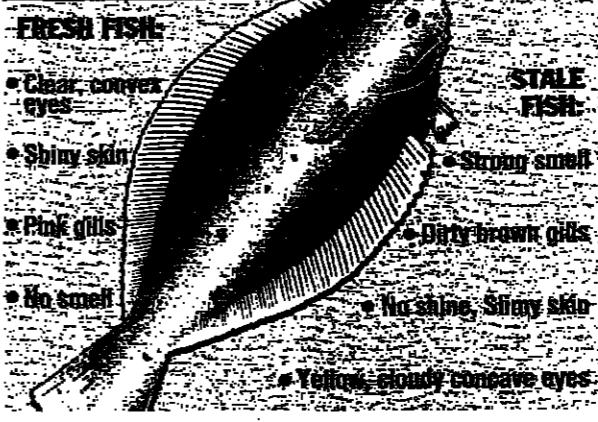
Mr Manning said that there could be more than 109,000 drug-driving cases a year, based on the findings of a Forensic Science Service study in 1993.

At the same conference the Royal Automobile Club reported that drivers taking sleeping tablets were four times more likely to have a road accident and that taking tranquillisers can double the risks.

The figures are based on Canadian studies and are the latest figures to support the RAC's campaign to warn of the dangers of drug-driving.



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# Drinks guide bitter over tasteless theme pubs



Themed out: Filthy McNastie's Irish-style pub in Islington, north London, is a popular haunt for the drink as well as good food. Photograph: David Rose

Chains blamed for poor food and low-quality service

**Glenda Cooper**  
Consumer Affairs Correspondent

Theme pubs are destroying an important way of traditional British life with low-quality food and drink and production-line decor, according to a new survey.

In a stinging attack, *The Which? Guide to Country Pubs* published today warns that some of Britain's most attractive pubs are suffering as a result when they are bought up by chains. In some cases food quality had gone down the drain since the pubs were taken over and in some cases it was "utterly dire", the guide said.

"Typically, managers move into these pubs for a few weeks and then leave millions to take over with chefs who have no business using the title running the kitchen," said David Mahey, editor of the guide.

The guide also complained about bland and formulaic furnishings in such institutions. "It seems to be almost compulsory to cover walls in fake

collections and clutter culled from the pubbers' curiosity shop," said Mr Mahey. "It is a sad character-stifling exercise that appears to be designed to rip the heart and soul out of any decent hostelry."

A spokesman for the Campaign for Real Ale (Camra) said that while there was room for different types of pubs in the market "the problem is when someone thinks of a good idea, such as the Irish concept, everyone jumps on the bandwagon and there can be three or four of the same kind in the high street and there is a danger of saturation".

But Bob Cartwright, communications director for Bass Taverns which owns 57 O'Neills Irish-style pubs, strongly disagreed with the guide's findings. "There is cracking service and very good food and a really good ambience. O'Neills is highly successful because it appeals to a broad section of people who might not normally go out to the pub," he said.

The guide also notes that landlords in the North are raising their glasses to the North-South divide after a new survey found that almost half the top-rated pubs were situated there. There was a "distinct shift" in centres of excellence with the North taking over from the West Country, which was criticised for bowing to the "perils of over-exposure, seasonal trade and a hefty dose of 'resting on laurels'".

In contrast, pubs in areas such as Yorkshire, Lancashire and the Midlands have done well this year with many more winning the coveted "two rosettes" award which indicates the quality of pub food is comparable to that in a serious restaurant.

Britons now munch their way through around £4bn worth of pub grub every year—spending as much on eating in pubs as they do in restaurants.

□ *The Which? Guide to Country Pubs* is published by Which? Ltd and can be ordered by calling 0800 252100; price £14.99, or it can be purchased from good bookshops.

## Teachers face out bullies in the staffroom

**Lucy Ward**

Brow-beaten teachers are calling for help in the middle of the night after suffering at the hands of staff room bullies. Amid mounting evidence that "school rage" is no longer confined to the playground, the Association of Teachers and Lecturers yesterday issued guidance to help victims stand up to their tormentors.

On the second day of its conference in Cardiff, the union heard that bullied teachers were reporting vicious campaigns of persistent undermining, intimidation and humiliation, usually waged by heads and senior managers.

The bullying can be physical, verbal, or non-verbal, and might include ostracising, setting impossible objectives, unreasonable allocation of duties, or even inappropriate eye contact, according to the new guidance.

Teachers falling victim to such behaviour could, in extreme cases, develop school phobia, and fear going to work to face threatening colleagues. They might also suffer a loss of confidence in their professional abilities and become reluctant to voice opinions to managers.

The worst culprits were

head teachers and senior school managers who abused their power, often because they were under pressure, but bullying tactics were also used by classroom teachers, governors, parents and non-teaching staff.

Belinda Hall, who runs the ATL's stress helpline, said the number of bullying-related calls had increased to one new case every working day.

Peter Smith, the union's general secretary, denied that it was launching a "get head teachers" campaign. He said that its guidelines would give teachers valuable weapons to identify and combat adult bullying in their schools and colleges.

The guidance identifies eight common types of bullies and the tactics used. Among them are "the refrigerators", who freeze out exceptional teachers in favour of poorer less threatening colleagues, and "the allocator" who singles out staff unfairly by allocating them the worse jobs.

"Changelings" are sly managers who fail to treat their staff consistently, fairly and equally, leaving them unsure where they stand, while "proceduralists" are head teachers and department heads who abide by school rules exhaustively and very slowly to undermine morale.

### DAILY POEM

#### High Time

By Heinrich Heine

It really is time I had the sense  
To give up this endless morose  
Play-acting. I just can't go on  
Being so histrionic.

The glorious backdrop was always daubed  
In the high-Romantic fashion,  
My knightly mantle shone like gold,  
I felt the most exquisite passion.

Yet now that my melodramatic streak  
Has been seen through with suitable culling,  
I feel as miserable as before.  
As if the old play were still running.

O God! unknowing and in jest  
I spoke my genuine feeling.  
There was death in my breast when I merely thought  
I was making a death-scene appealing.

The new Everyman's Poetry selection of Heinrich Heine's verse is translated and edited by David Cram and T.J. Reed (Everyman/M Dent, £2). The bicentenary of the poet's birth (as Harry Heine, to a Jewish family in Dusseldorf) falls on 13 December this year.

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# Bullet train claims new speed record

Richard Lloyd Parry

Tokyo  
As well as being the fastest, the Japanese bullet train is the oldest, the most efficient, and surely the best-equipped high-speed train in the world.

If I were an executive, with meetings to hold, managing directors to schmooze with, big transactions to direct, and expensive dinners to reserve, all could be easily accomplished on the bullet train.

If I were a nursing mother, I could feed the baby, change its nappy, and dress for dinner in secure privacy. For a wheelchair-bound passenger, there would be no problem – as well as private-meeting facilities, long-distance phones, digital financial news, and ladies powder-rooms, the Max Yamabiko bullet train on which I travelled from Tokyo to the northern city of Morioka has a lift for disabled passengers. Yamabiko means "Echo" (bullet trains all bear faintly poetic names). Max stands for Multi-amenity express, and all it lacks is a barbershop and multi-gym.

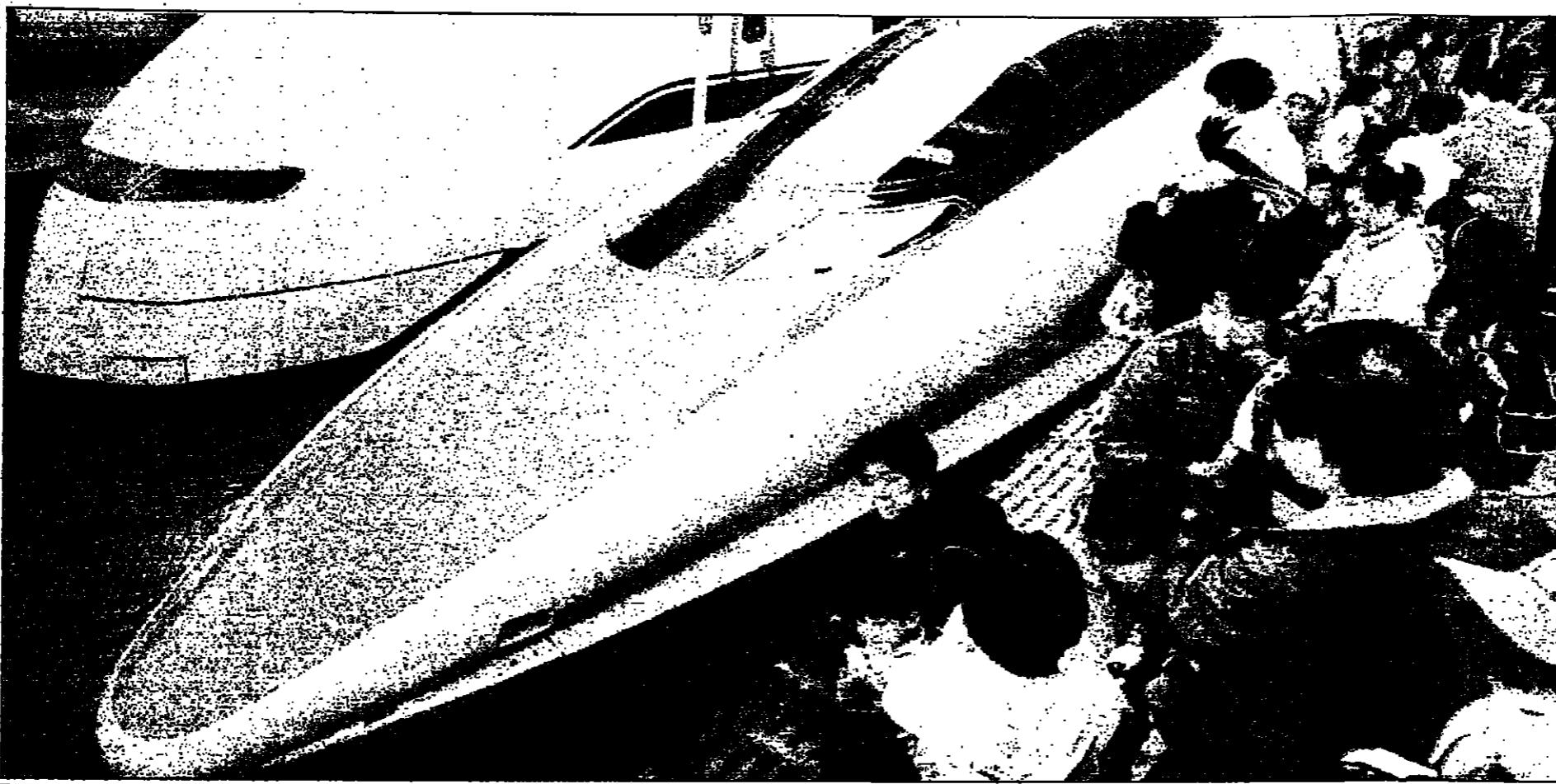
Sinking back into my deep-pile seat on the top floor of the double-decker carriage as rice fields whipped by at 140mph, I was filled with intoxicating feelings of urgency and mission.

Japan, scattered over four main islands, is 1,200 miles from end to end, but the brilliance and efficiency of its trains make it feel like a small and compact country. This week, it became smaller still with the opening of the latest extension to the shinkansen (which means simply "new express line"), to the northern city of Akita.

Once transport to the airport and check-times have been taken into account, it is slightly quicker to get from Tokyo to many Japanese cities by rail.

A German teacher, Jobst-Mathias Spannagel, came to Japan last month to set a world record for the number of rail miles travelled in a single day – 2,607 on five separate journeys. All these feats are made possible by the bullet train.

Though synonymous with high-speed travel, the bullet train had lost ground to the



Transport of delight: The latest Nozomi train being wheeled out in Hiroshima before going into service, during which it outperformed the French TGV

Photograph: Reuters

French TGV, which holds the current official record for average speed between two stations of 157mph, achieved between Paris and St Pierre des Corps. In a bid to regain the lead, the Japanese introduced the Nozomi line in 1992, and on Saturday the Nozomi-503, equipped with a long-nose lead carriage and new sound-proofing for a faster, quieter ride, smashed through the record.

Carrying 1,300 passengers in 16 carriages from Osaka to Fukuoka, it hit speeds of up to 300kmh (186mph) and sustained an average speed of 261.8kmh (163mph) between stops in Hiroshima and Kokura, on the southern island of Kyushu. Its owners, the West Japan Railway Company, have applied to the

Guinness Book of World Records

for official recognition. It was an important recovery of image. No other high-speed train has become such an institution or played such a symbolic part in a nation's development. The shinkansen was built for the Tokyo Olympics in the pivotal year of 1964. The spectacle of the bullet train, scything through the countryside with Mt Fuji in the background, became an instant and memorable national image. Along with the 16 gold medals won in the Games by Japanese athletes, it marked an important moment in the country's growing self-confidence and rehabilitation.

Since then the bullet train has embodied the best and worst about Japan. During the 1970s it became a byword for corruption, thanks to Kakuei Tanaka, Japan's most notorious prime minister, who eventually came to a sticky end after the Lockheed bribery scandal.

Tanaka came from Niigata, a busy, but not especially significant port on Japan's north-west coast. Like all good Japanese politicians, he depended for his grass-roots support on local businessmen who bankrolled his political activities in return for juicy public-works projects awarded from Tokyo. To the delight of his constituents, Tanaka presented them with the greatest prize of all – their own shinkansen line, linking obscure Niigata with Tokyo Central.

Never mind that there were far more worthy candidates for this honour, never mind the environmental impact of the project or the beauty of the Japan Alps through which the line was bored. Tanaka was looking after his own (with undoubtedly financial benefits to himself) and, even after his criminal

conviction, the late prime minister is remembered in Niigata as a hero.

Bullet train-spotting is a complicated business these days – in the 32 years since its debut,

the original design has been improved and modified in a hungry quest for greater speed and volume. The Nozomis do not in fact look like bullets, but have tapering wedge-shaped aero-

dynamic noses, designed to reduce wind resistance and (the shinkansen's besetting problem) noise pollution.

Tests are already being carried out on the maglev, an

amazing vehicle which levitates above its rails on a magnetic cushion, and may one day carry passengers as fast as 300mph.

This summer, the Fujita Cor-

poration began tests on models

## On track for a record

- On Saturday the Nozomi-503 hit an average speed of 168mph between Hiroshima and Kokura.
- The current official record-holder, the French Train à Grande Vitesse (TGV), reaches an average speed of 157mph between Paris and St Pierre des Corps.
- The Nozomi also matched the top speed reached by the TGV, 187mph.
- The Eurostar from London to Paris reaches 165mph for most of its journey on the French side of the Channel.
- The fastest speed recorded by a national rail system is 262.2mph, held by TGV between Coulommiers and Tonkin in May 1990.
- The earliest speed record was achieved by Stephenson's Rocket between Liverpool and Manchester railway when it ran at 29.5mph on 2 October, 1829.
- The fastest was the fastest steam locomotive, reaching a speed of 122.5mph between Grantham and Peterborough in July 1858.
- On 30 November, 1934, the Flying Scotsman hit 100mph for 500 yards between Grantham and Peterborough – although an unauthorised train driver said it reached no more than 85mph.
- The first regular scheduled service to hit speeds of more than 100mph was the Japanese shinkansen line. The service, introduced in 1964, took passengers from Tokyo to Osaka at average speeds of 103.3mph, a maximum speed of 130mph.

## Pirate seizes Italy's unguarded airwaves

Andrew Gumbel

Rome

A pirate is at large in northern Italy. No, he is not menacing ships on the high seas, nor is he roaming the majestic old port of Venice. This is a pirate with an acute sense of the media-obsessed times, and he is striking at the state where it hurts most – right in the middle of the main evening news.

Three times in the last week, viewers in the north-eastern Veneto region have been blasted with several minutes of secessionist propaganda during the eight o'clock bulletin on the flagship state channel RAI Uno.

Each time, the sound has gone dead and a man calling himself the Pirate Doge has railed against the "rotten and corrupt" Italian state, urging his "indomitable fellow patriots of the Veneto" to rise up in revolt against the colonialist government of Rome.

It happened first in Venice, then in Treviso, then in Verona. Each time, the saboteurs have hijacked a state broadcasting transmitter, apparently without difficulty and with increasing impunity. The news from Albania and Israel has been drowned out by a call to join an independence demonstration in Venice on 12 May, the 200th anniversary of the fall of the Venetian Republic. This was the moment in history, according to local secessionists, when the Veneto's entrapment by outside occupiers began.



Bossi: Independence begins at last on 14 September

European Monetary Union on the first go. The separatist message is simple: why should we fork out more taxes and sacrifice our welfare provisions when in the north are ready to join Europe but the south is not?

The television pirate is not the only one trumpeting this message. Mr Bossi was in fine form at a rally in Milan over the weekend, describing Italy as a fascist, colonialist state and promising independence for Padania on 14 September 14. "The government of Padania will have to decide... if the people of the north will march with submachine guns slung over their shoulders," he warned in provocative fashion. "We are decent people, but please, my Roman friends, don't piss around with us any more."

The judiciary, meanwhile, is taking a renewed interest in Mr Bossi's friends, and the Pirate Doge in particular. Magistrates have opened four separate investigations into the intercepted news broadcasts, one for each of the incidents and an extra one, for good measure, into the phenomenon of "instigation to subvert the unity of the Italian state".

The Veneto is where the League movement began in the late-1970s, and it has become the most radical region by far in its hatred of government, and especially of taxation, imposed by Rome.

The protest has particular poignancy, since the Italian government is about to embark on its umpteenth round of budget austerity to try to qualify for

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## international

# Rifkind spoils EU party with sceptical attack

**Sarah Helm**  
Rome

Malcolm Rifkind, the Foreign Secretary, yesterday erupted with fury at the European Union's 40th anniversary meeting in Rome, attacking new plans for power-sharing as "totally unacceptable".

In one of his most scathing attacks on European integration, Mr Rifkind accused his partners of planning another "lurch in a federalist direction" by proposing to give Brussels sole control over immigration and justice, and laying designs for a European defence body.

Speaking during discussions on a new draft treaty, to be signed at Amsterdam in June, Mr Rifkind described plans to increase qualified majority voting within the EU as "hostile to the principle of democracy."

The Foreign Secretary's words soured the mood at the anniversary meeting held to mark 40 years since the signing of the Treaty of Rome.

The Dutch, who hold the EU presidency, had hoped that progress on the draft treaty could be secured at Rome, to make sure that the text is ready

for signature in three months' time. The Italian hosts had also made elaborate efforts to mark four decades of glorious union, and encourage the 15 member states to "keep travelling the same path".

However, no sooner had the foreign ministers taken their seats in the Campidoglio, Rome's town hall, to map out such a path, than Mr Rifkind launched his attack. The Foreign Secretary then left the meeting to repeat his criticisms to the waiting press.

While the British onslaught caused irritation to other foreign ministers, they all were aware that the display was staged as much for British voters as for the company in Rome. Mr Rifkind dawdled in front of British television cameras, granting interviews to all comers, while his partners continued their negotiations.

Jacques Santer, the President of the Commission, said the other member states viewed the performance as "campaigning". He added: "We will have to wait until after the election".

Nevertheless, Britain's partners know they cannot afford to dismiss Mr Rifkind's attack so easily, as the threat of a British veto could scupper the Amsterdam treaty.

The Foreign Secretary's critique of the draft treaty was detailed and rigorous and will set the tone for Britain's domestic debate on European integration as the general election campaign intensifies.

Labour will come under pressure to match some of Mr Rifkind's criticisms of European plans in order to avoid being attacked as soft on Europe. And if it is elected, Labour may find itself equally unable to make concessions at Amsterdam.

While Mr Rifkind clearly had his own electorate in mind yesterday, it is clear the Government was taken aback by the far-reaching measures contained in the draft treaty.

The Foreign Secretary described the entire approach of the draft as a betrayal of the principles set down at Maastricht. It was agreed that key areas of European policy-making, such as immigration and criminal justice, foreign policy and defence, would be decided through loose co-operation and would not be brought under the

direct control of EU institutions. Plans to give Brussels power over immigration and justice would in practice mean that Britain's immigration policy or asylum policy could simply be overruled by a majority vote in the council of ministers," he said. "It does not need me to tell you that such proposals are totally unacceptable and should be unacceptable to other countries as well."

The Foreign Secretary made it clear that the proposal from other member states to allow Britain to "opt out" from plans to abolish internal border controls would not deal with British objections on immigration and justice issues. The Government would still fiercely oppose the

integration of immigration and justice policy into EU structures as a threat to national sovereignty.

Revised Franco-German plans to give the EU powers over defence policy, including, in the long run, powers to command forces were also rejected by Mr Rifkind. The plans, which also worry some other

member states, particularly the neutral countries, envisage the incorporation of the Western European Union (WEU), the EU's institutional defence arm, into the Union itself.

Mr Rifkind said if the WEU were to become part of the European Union, the EU would be turned into a defence organisation, Mr Rifkind said.

Leading article, page 19



Light moment: Malcolm Rifkind shares a joke with German Foreign Minister Klaus Kinkel at the EU foreign ministers' meeting

Photograph: Reuter

## Italy's lone play for delay on euro falls on stony ground

**Andrew Gumbel**  
Rome

With its prospects of qualifying for the single European currency on the wane, the Italian government yesterday floated the idea of delaying monetary union by one year to give everyone more time to meet the strict criteria laid out in the Maastricht treaty. The suggestion, however, fell flat almost as soon as it had been made.

As Europe's foreign ministers

gathered in Rome to celebrate the 40th anniversary of the founding of the European community, Italy's representative, Lamberto Dini, proposed the delay in an interview with his country's leading financial daily, *Il Sole-24 Ore*. "I am convinced that one more year would be useful for everyone," he said.

The measures being taken to meet the Maastricht criteria, he said, were slowing down Europe's economies. Even France and Germany were having difficulty meeting

the criteria; delay would not only give them more time, he argued, but would avoid anguished debates about budget austerity and the abandonment of the mark when Germany holds its next general elections in October 1998, three months before the euro's launch date.

Mr Dini's remarks were quickly scotched both by the Germans and the French. "If we want to change the rules we have to renegotiate the Maastricht treaty. As long as we have this treaty we have to abide by it,"

said France's Foreign Minister, Hervé de Charette.

Faced with this rebuff, Mr Dini backed off. "I haven't requested a delay in monetary union," he insisted. "I was just repeating something I've been saying for some time."

Mr Dini made a similar proposal in Majorca in September 1995, when he was Italy's prime minister, and received an equally chilly reception. The problem for Italy, then and now, is that qualification for monetary union is a supreme political goal

which no government could miss and hope to survive.

Mr Dini's government, and the present centre-left coalition led by Romano Prodi, have made gargantuan efforts to rein in Italy's runaway public finances. It is still conceivable – just – that Italy could meet the main Maastricht criteria, a deficit-to-GDP (gross domestic product) ratio of 3 per cent, by the end of this year. But the rest of the European Union, particularly Germany, has grown more nervous in the face of Italy's

efforts because it has no faith in the country's archaic economic structure and Byzantine, inefficient institutions.

Italian diplomats realise that their only chance of joining the euro on time is if the whole process is delayed, and they have been lobbying hard behind the scenes on this platform for several weeks. Italy's problem, though, is a lack of allies in the EU. Spain views Italy as a competitor, not as a collaborator, while Greece and Portugal are too far off target to even hope to qualify for monetary union. Italy's next best option would be a late entry – some time after 1999 but before 2002, when the final phase of Emu is due to be completed. It is not an option the government is keen to contemplate because it is fraught with political unknowns. One big risk is that Mr Prodi's government would fall and plunge the country into yet another crisis. Or that the ultra-right north – goaded by the separatist Northern League – could push to be admitted to the euro club and leave the rest of the country behind.

# PARIS

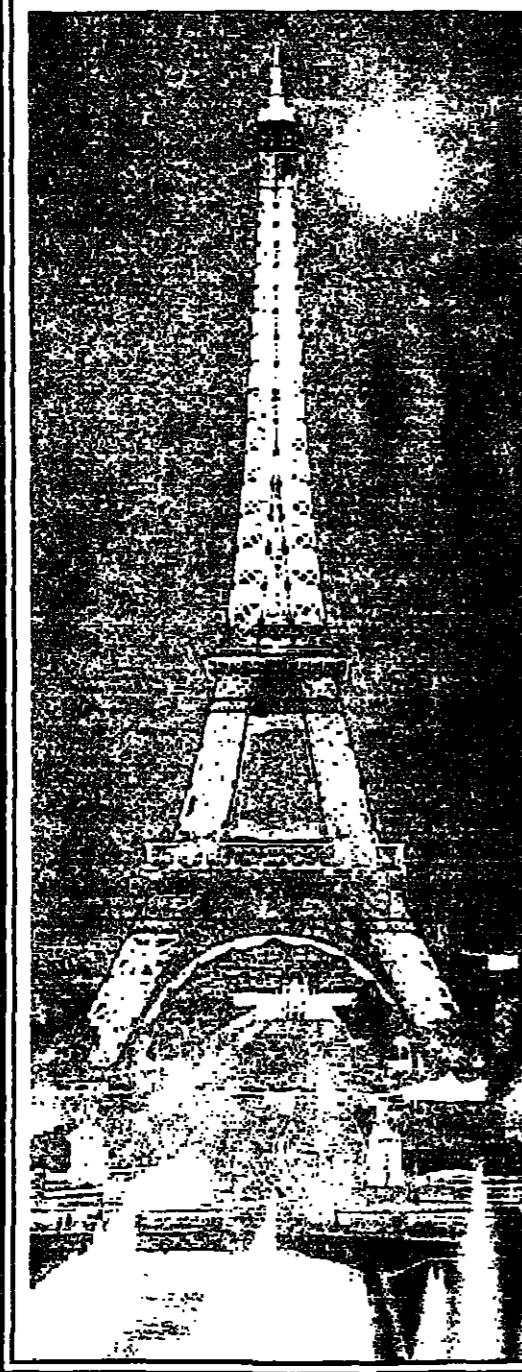
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## Hong Kong handover

# Colony threatens Gore's fragile friendship

Teresa Poole  
Peking

As far as China's prime minister, Li Peng, was concerned yesterday, Taiwan was "the central issue with the utmost importance and sensitivity" in Sino-US relations. But in the immediate future it is Hong Kong which could disrupt the fragile improvement in relations between Washington and Peking, sealed this week by the arrival of Vice-President Al Gore, the highest level American official to visit China since the 1989 Tiananmen killings.

Mr Gore met Mr Li yesterday for talks which both men sought to present as constructive and amiable. Nei-

ther human rights nor the controversy surrounding alleged Chinese political donations in the US was permitted to cloud the occasion.

Mr Gore said his meetings had been "very positive". According to the Chinese, the Vice-President had prepared well for his first trip to the Middle Kingdom by reading "quite a lot of books" about Chinese culture and history; as proof, Mr Gore quoted an old Chinese saying that "seeing once is better than hearing 100 times".

Mr Li told Mr Gore that China was "fully confident on the smooth transfer and the stability and prosperity" of Hong Kong after sovereignty reverted to China on 1 July. Earlier this month, US Congressmen

voted 416-1 for a bill which has infuriated China because it calls for trade sanctions if the US administration decides that Peking has broken its pledges of a high degree of autonomy for the former British colony after the handover.

Yesterday, Mr Gore stressed to Mr Li that "preserving Hong Kong's economic vigour and long-term prosperity and stability was very important for the whole world". Formal agreement was reached yesterday for the US to maintain a consulate in Hong Kong after 1 July.

The potential for the Hong Kong issue to undermine Sino-US relations this year was emphasised yesterday by Joseph Nye, the former US as-

sistant secretary of defense, who was on a separate visit to Peking.

"There will be many in the [US] Congress who may find the smallest incidents after the turnover of Hong Kong as grounds to try to bring about a problem in US-China relations. This is certainly a real possibility," Mr Nye said. Peking should be careful "not to take actions, particularly actions after the reversion of Hong Kong, which would feed into those who wish to vilify China".

One possible threat to Hong Kong's future under Chinese rule is the politicisation of trade and business, an issue which came to the fore in Peking yesterday. Fighting shy of any role as a dealmaker, Mr Gore's publicly issued itinerary made no

mention of any contract signings by US companies, even though these normally take centre-stage during such visits.

In the end, however, he and Mr Li duly presided as Boeing and General Motors closed much-delayed contracts. Boeing has sold five 777-200 jets, worth \$685m (£425m), to Air China, while General Motors sealed a \$1.57bn joint venture in Shanghai to make sedans.

Ronald Woodward, president of Boeing's Commercial Airplane Group, said both sides reached basic agreement a year ago, but signing was delayed. "There is no doubt the contract was not executed when it was ready because of tension be-

tween the US and China last year and the year before," he said. "There are times when politics are involved."

John Smith, chairman of General Motors, said Mr Gore's trip had provided a "catalyst" for his signing.

The Vice-President's visit, paving the way for a Sino-US presidential summit later this year, is a key test for the US administration's defending its policy of "constructive engagement" with China.

Mr Nye firmly backed this approach. "If the alternative is to follow a pre-emptive containment policy, I know the outcome, and I would submit that a Cold War in Asia would be a costly event for all us, and not necessary."

## Deposed reformist shows first signs of a comeback

Stephen Vines  
Hong Kong

Zhao Ziyang, the Chinese Communist Party leader deposed during the 1989 democracy protests, appears to be taking the first steps towards a political comeback according to reports in a Hong Kong newspaper.

Yesterday's *Hong Kong Standard* states that Mr Zhao arrived in Shanghai, China's biggest city, over the weekend in a special train with "several members of his personal entourage and more than a dozen security personnel". The report quotes witnesses as saying that security was as tight as that provided for state leaders.

It is not clear what Mr Zhao is doing in Shanghai. He is said not to be meeting senior officials but to be having discussions with more junior cadres alongside visits to state-run companies to study how they are coming to terms with China's economic reform programme.

Mr Zhao was forced out of office after showing sympathy for the democracy protesters and arguing against the hardline which lead to the Tiananmen Square massacre. In 1987 he was hand-picked by the late Deng Xiaoping, China's paramount leader, as the nation's new leader.

Deng shared Mr Zhao's en-



1981: Zhao Ziyang with Deng Xiaoping. Photograph: Magnum

thusiasm for economic reform but bitterly opposed his support for political reform.

The deposed leader has made no public appearance for almost eight years, although he has been seen playing golf and was rumoured to have made a tour of the South some three years ago, although this was never confirmed.

Last month Mr Zhao asked for permission to attend Deng's funeral. His request was turned down. President Jiang Zemin, the Communist Party leader, is reported to have issued an order for Mr Zhao to remain in isolation.

Mr Zhao is also quoted as criticising the new leaders for back-

tracking on economic reform and raising the delicate subject of the Tiananmen massacre. Like a number of other influential Chinese personalities, Mr Zhao is calling for a reassessment of the 1989 crackdown.

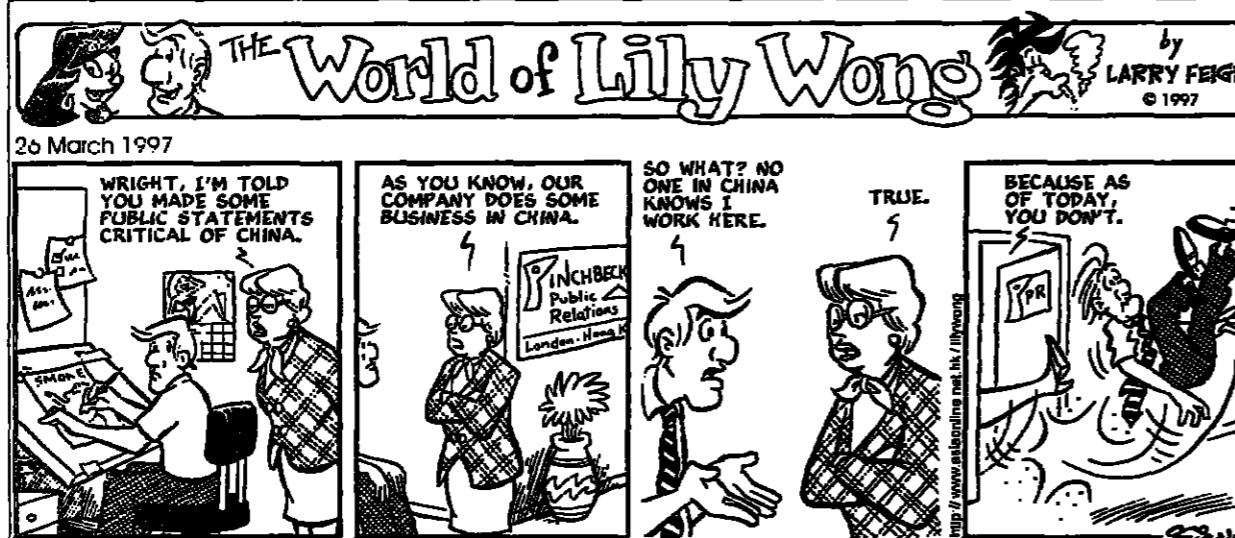
It is hard to believe that Mr Jiang would allow such an unrepentant critic to return to the fold. However, the President is facing more overt criticism from leftist hardliners and may feel the need to make a gesture to Mr Zhao as a way of keeping the Communist Party's reform wing outside.

Zhao Ziyang is hardly the liberal politician he is fondly imagined to be by some Western politicians but for the past decade he has been the most articulate and forceful advocate of reform within the Communist context. Like Deng Xiaoping, who suffered exile for being a reformist during the Cultural Revolution, Mr Zhao may yet emerge as a rallying point for reformists in the new era.

As ever the bulk of the information about the power struggle in Peking is percolating through to Hong Kong which, for the time being, retains its position as the main source of "unofficial" information about Chinese affairs. Whether this will continue after 1 July, when China resumes sovereignty, is in question.



Growing up: A man meeting his daughter outside a school in Hong Kong. Many parents are against their children receiving sex education at an early age. Photograph: Tom Pilston



## Sexual taboos break into the classroom

Stephen Vines

The "taboo" subjects of "incest,urbation, homosexuality, pre-marital sex and sexual harassment etc" are to be broached in Hong Kong's secondary schools if government proposals are accepted. In addition, for the first time, sex education will appear on the curriculum for kindergartes and primary schools.

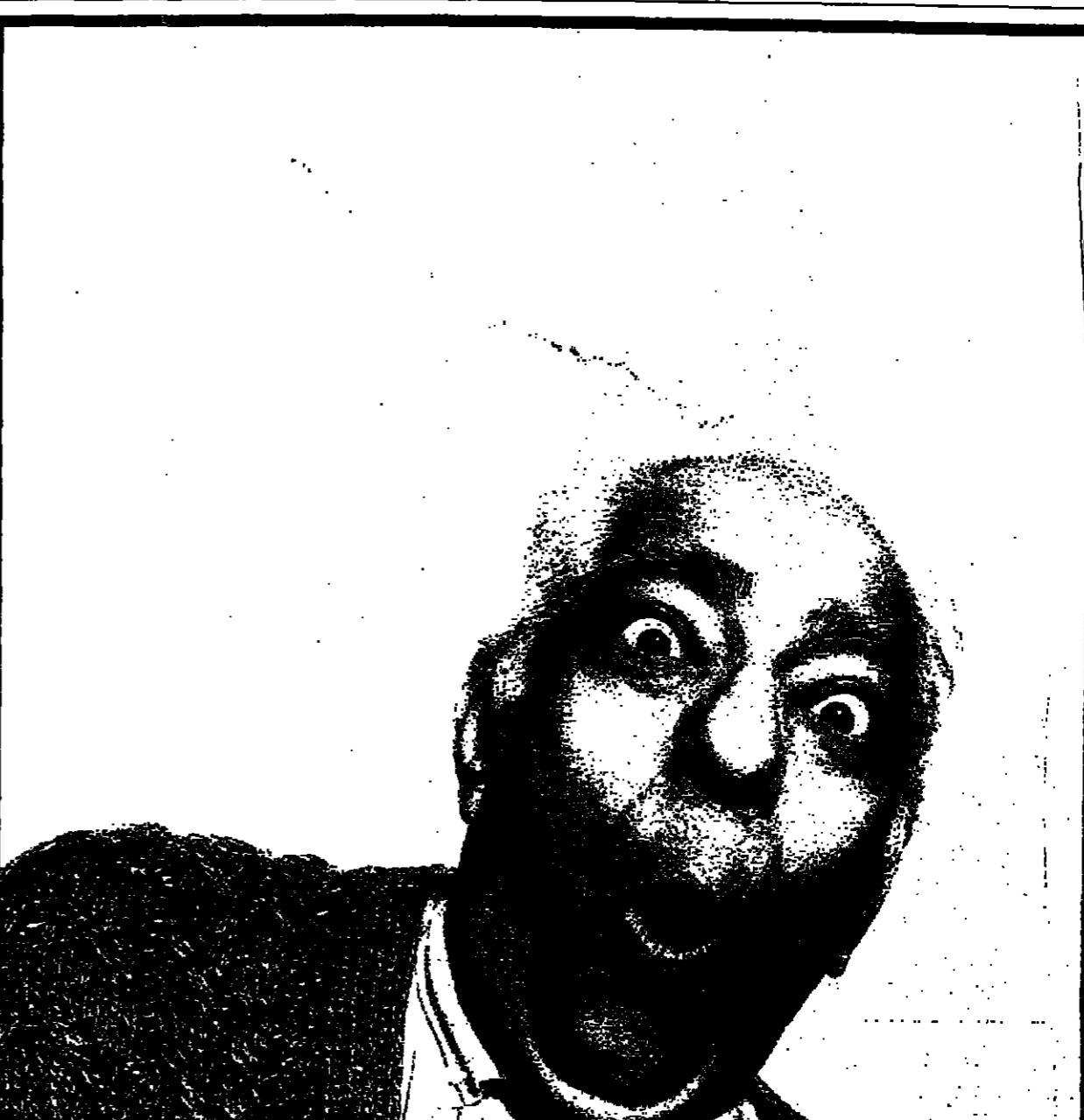
Yesterday the colony's administration issued new guidelines on sex education. Justin Leung, assistant director of education, said revisions were necessary "in view of the social changes over the past 10 years". The government was trying to help teachers equip students with "the attitudes, values and knowledge necessary for solving sex tensions".

The guidelines also provide for education on AIDS with an "emphasis on the clarification of values, positive self-esteem, and concepts of marriage and family". Hong Kong schools are not known as centres of enlightenment, particularly when it comes to sex education. Surveys taken among young people have shown high level of ignorance about sex.

The proposed guidelines are expected to be opposed by teachers reluctant to teach about sex and parents who seem to believe their children should not have access to sexual information at an early age.

Evidence suggests sex education is badly needed in Hong Kong. A survey by a group concerned about proliferation of pornography found that over a quarter of boys questioned said they would commit rape if this did not mean going to jail.

Last year a consultation exercise on sexual discrimination found 53 per cent of those questioned would not allow homosexual into their homes, 7 per cent would not stay in the same hotel as a homosexual, bi-sexual and one in five people stated they would not shake hands with a gay person.



# The battle for history: Struggle to rewrite the past puts classrooms and textbooks in the frontline Truth goes to the wall as German right makes a final stand for Hitler's army

Inre Karres

They are re-enacting the Second World War in Bavaria's green fields. The outcome will doubtless still be the same as 52 years ago, except that this time the home side has high hopes of scoring a moral victory.

Apart from one street-skirmish in Munich, little blood has been shed so far, but truth has already become a casualty. A motley collection of conservatives, opportunists and neo-Nazis is trying to convince Germans that Hitler's regular army had a bad press. The Wehrmacht, they claim, had virtually nothing to do with the extermination of Jews and the mass murder of civilians.

Evidence to the contrary, as displayed in an exhibition in Munich about the "Crimes of the Wehrmacht", is concocted by Communists provocateurs, they charge. The "slanderers" are now being exposed by Bavaria's right-wing government and young minds are about to be cleansed of this filthy propaganda.

In the latest row about the exhibition, which has already been shown in 15 other German and Austrian cities without much fuss, Bavaria's culture minister, Hans Zehetmair, has taken aim at history lessons. Teachers, he suggested, should not cloud the pupils' vision with images of Wehrmacht officers executing civilians in occupied countries.

Teachers and pupils must be very confused, for the history textbooks approved by the very same culture minister are replete with the sort of pictures now hanging in Munich's town hall. Bavaria's conservatives are two decades out of sync.

"For 30 years after '45 the general view was that the Wehrmacht were clean," says Karl Brückmayer, history teacher at Dachau's Josef Eflinger grammar school, a honey-comb-shaped architectural wonder less than a mile from Germany's Berlin monument. "But since the Seventies, the Wehrmacht's role in the Final Solution has been explored."

Mr Brückmayer flicks through the books, revealing harrowing photographs of death camps and chapters of dense text on genocide.



German soldiers march into the Rhineland: Since the 1970s, historians have confirmed that the regular army played a key role in the mass extermination of Jews and civilians

You could not come away from it with the naive belief that the Nazis' crimes were perpetrated only by a few. Just in case the pupils do not get the point, there are field trips for the senior grades to the former concentration camp, and classroom discussions with Dachau survivors about the Holocaust.

This year, the 15th grade - 18-year-olds - also paid a visit to the Munich exhibition. They enjoyed what they saw, insofar as one can enjoy such an outing, but profess not to have

learnt much from it. "What we saw we knew already," one of them commented.

Perhaps coming from this infamous town on the outskirts of Munich has made them more knowledgeable than their contemporaries? "It's true that living here you get a slightly different perspective," Manuela Winkler, one of the 18-year-olds, says. But, judging from the fleet of school buses which crowd the memorial's car park, the locals are not alone in their inquisitiveness.

Tens of thousands of children have been to the Munich exhibition, which has broken all attendance records. The teachers' trade union reports an upsurge of interest in the period across Bavaria and the teachers themselves say they can barely keep up with their pupils' insatiable hunger for the grisly details.

Many youngsters may well be doing for their final year history projects what Manuela has in mind: interviewing people in her village near Dachau about what they did during the war.

A lot of people will get hurt in this process: a lot of God-fearing Catholic folk who have always voted for Bavaria's eternal ruling party, the Christian Social Union. And not just former soldiers.

"If we look at the army's role, then we have to look at the role of doctors in this town, because Dachau was an extermination camp for handicapped people," says Mr Brückmayer. "And if we look at doctors, than we have to look at the legal profession, who form the bedrock of the party's support will be next in the firing line."

The strategy will not pay off

cuthana. And so it goes on. Understandably, some conservatives want to put a stop to this quest for the ultimate truth. Thus do the Christian Socialists find themselves in the same camp as neo-Nazis, in a Quixotic battle for the honour of the dead and the dying. They must stand up for the wartime generation, because the wartime doctors, lawyers and other professionals who form the backbone of the party's support will be next in the firing line.

The strategy will not pay off in the long term. The voters the CSU tries to protect are defecting to the Grim Reaper, and there are not enough hard-right Bavarians to replace them. The big cities, including Munich, are already in the hands of the Social Democrats and Greens, and the party is set to lose its absolute majority in the regional parliament next year.

The Wehrmacht exhibition, which Germany's most right-wing governing party tried to oblige, may prove to be the conservatives' Stalingrad.

At a function in Cape Town on Monday, South Africa's education minister, Professor Sibusiso Bengu, formally received the official report on Curriculum 2005 from his technical advisory committee. According to Sheila Sisulu, an adviser to Bengu, the programme hopes to wean students from a textbook-dependent approach to education and encourage the use of multi-media resources. The textbooks that are used will be new or rewritten to give a more balanced view of South Africa's past.

Once approved, the new syllabus will be overhauled from next year, two school years at a time, and is scheduled to take until the end of 2004. Delays in defining the curriculum have, however, made it difficult for educational publishers to prepare appropriate texts in time.

"The learning programmes for next year are still not available and it's March already. It is physically not possible for us to wait... Publishers are just trying to guess and do the best we can," Ms Krut said.

In the process of rewriting history, though, dangers lurk in the temptation to produce a "victor's history" as distorted one way as the previous ones were the other, according to one historian engaged in writing the new textbooks. "The temptation to glorify the struggle is bound to have an effect on history writing, replacing an Afrikaner nationalist text with a liberation movement narrative," the historian said.

The new curriculum is scheduled to be introduced in February next year.

## Schoolbooks slow to admit Japan's shame

Richard Lloyd Parry  
Tokyo

Question: when is a forcibly recruited military sex slave, not a forcibly recruited military sex slave? Answer: when she is a "comfort woman". What is the correct term for the dispatch of armed peace-keeping forces abroad? An "assignment". What do you call it when thousands of Japanese troops invade Manchuria? An "advance". What is the source of this cant, euphemism and evasiveness? Answer: Japan's school history text books.

Japan's modern history has always been an ideological battlefield, and nowhere has the fighting been fiercer than in the country's classrooms. Every four years all of the text books proposed by publishers for use in schools have to be submitted for screening by the Ministry of Education. Every four years, the screening process is the occasion of bitter struggles between liberal historians and teachers, and the powerful conservatives of the Japanese bureaucracy. Over the past ten years, the former have won several significant victories

and in many ways today's history books are strikingly frank. Gone are the days when the invasion of Manchuria was euphemised as "an advance", and several of the texts make no bones about the Imperial Army's less glorious moments. "In Nanjing, the army massacred large numbers of Chinese people, including not only prisoners of war, but women and children," says one. "The deprivation of food created hardship for the people under Japanese occupation."

This year, a smouldering controversy has flared up over the inclusion,

for the first time, of references to the "comfort women", the Indonesian, Filipina and Korean sex slaves who were organised in front-line brothels for the use of the Imperial Army. One hundred and sixteen conservative politicians have formed a cross-party parliamentary group objecting to what they call a "misogynistic" emphasis on shameful aspects of Japan's history, although the references in several of the books are so brief as to be almost meaningless. One publisher records that the government "forced women to go with the army as comfort women" and treated them badly. The "comfort" which the women dispensed, and the details of their "bad" treatment are not explained.

But the education ministry reserves its most vigilante policing for active politicians have formed a cross-party parliamentary group objecting to what they call a "misogynistic" emphasis on shameful aspects of Japan's history, although the references in several of the books are so brief as to be almost meaningless. One publisher records that the government "forced women to go with the army as comfort women" and treated them badly. The "comfort" which the women dispensed, and the details of their "bad" treatment are not explained.

When one made reference to the controversial "dispatch" of SDF troops on overseas peace-keeping operations, it was forced to adopt the less-militaristic sounding "assignment" instead. A sentence observing that the SDF has "grown into a new Japanese military force" was rewritten. Rather, the ministry insisted, the SDF "has grown identical to military forces in terms of capabilities".



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## 18 international

# Rebel soldiers besiege Papua's parliament

**Adrian Hadland**  
and Agencies

Armed soldiers and demonstrators prevented 100 MPs from leaving Papua New Guinea's parliament yesterday after the Prime Minister, Sir Julius Chan, survived a motion to oust him.

The no-confidence motion, defeated by 58 votes to 39, called on Sir Julius, together with other high-ranking ministers, to resign ahead of a judicial inquiry, due to begin on April 1, into a controversial \$36m (£23m) contract with foreign mercenaries. Last night about 250 soldiers, armed with M-16s and pistols, had set up roadblocks and were searching

for MPs outside the parliamentary compound.

Sir Julius's whereabouts were unknown last night, though there were reports that he had left parliament shortly after the vote.

The deal between Sir Julius's government and the British mercenary firm Sandline International, sparked civil riots last week as well as a mutiny by military leaders, who alleged corruption and argued that the money would be better spent on local soldiers.

The mercenaries had been taken on to assist in crushing a secessionist rebellion on Bougainville, a copper-rich island 800 miles north-east of the country's capital, Port Moresby.

Soldiers of the Papuan army have been defying the government for the past week and all but one of the 60 mercenaries have been deported.

Major Walter Emma, a high-ranking soldier allied to the recently fired army leader Brigadier General Jerry Singirok, arrived at the compound late last night and tried to defuse the situation.

"The parliament has made its decision ... and the military will respect it," Major Emma said.

"There will be no confrontation." He then entered parliament to assure the politicians inside of their safety.

The former head of the army, Brig Gen Singirok, was sacked by Sir Julius as a result of the



United: Soldiers joining civilians outside parliament in Port Moresby last night as they call for premier Sir Julius Chan's resignation. Photograph: Reuters

mutiny but remains in effective control of the army. He was not present at parliament yesterday.

During the debate, Sir Julius told parliament that the country's ill-trained and ill-equipped

soldiers had been captured on Bougainville and slain "like sitting ducks" by the rebels.

"There comes a time when you have to act in the interest of the nation's security," he told

parliament. "I had to put the lives of our soldiers on Bougainville first."

Mathias Ijape, the Defence Minister, said the decision to hire the mercenaries had been

taken after Australia and New Zealand had refused to provide the military equipment and training needed to crush the rebellion.

"What do you expect a legitimate government of Papua New Guinea to do? Sit here and see this suffering?" Mr Ijape asked.

Although Sir Julius won a tactical victory, it immediately prompted outrage among protesters outside parliament. The crowd threw stones at cars and police responded with volleys of tear gas.

Chief Emeka Anyaoku, the Commonwealth secretary-general, interrupted an official visit to Australia this week and travelled to Papua New Guinea in an attempt to mediate the crisis. He arrived late on Monday, visited rebel army leaders at their barracks, and spoke to a broad range of political leaders

before returning to Canberra. Both Chief Anyaoku and the Foreign Office urged a peaceful constitutional settlement to the current crisis.

Economic analysts, meanwhile, say Papua New Guinea may yet pay dearly for the loss of stability in the region through capital flight and falling foreign reserves.

The uncertainty itself will have an impact. The international banking system is very sensitive to political uncertainties in the country. I'm pretty sure Papua New Guinea would have lost a fair bit of foreign reserves by now," said Sanish Chand, a specialist at the Australian National University's National Centre for Development Studies.

There were also fears that the World Bank and IMF would withdraw support if stability did not return, he said.

## significant shorts

### Warrant for Galtieri over 'dirty war' killings

A Spanish judge issued an international arrest warrant for the former Argentine military president Leopoldo Galtieri for his alleged role in the killing of three Spaniards during Argentina's "dirty war". Baltasar Garzon, who is investigating the disappearance of 300 Spaniards in Argentina 1976-1983, said he was asking Interpol to take Mr Galtieri into custody if he leaves his homeland. He led the ruling junta 1980-1982 and ordered the invasion of the Falklands.

Reuters - Madrid

### Fears grow over mass killer

Police widened their search for more victims of a serial killer and tried to trace whether the trail of cut-up body parts from four women was linked to at least two similar murders. The new disclosures have shocked a nation already reeling from a series of child sex murders that has left at least five girls dead.

AP - Brussels

### Russians woo Indian PM

Opening the first top-level talks between Russia and India since 1993, President Boris Yeltsin met the Indian Prime Minister, Deve Gowda. With its economy ailing, Russia is looking to Asia for new trade partners and buyers for its weapons and nuclear technologies.

AP - Moscow

### Cossack alert

In a further sign that a customs union between Russia and three ex-Soviet states is crumbling, Kazakhstan criticised what it said were armed Cossack units placed along the republic's northern border with Russia. The Cossacks reappeared during the Soviet collapse. Reuters - Almaty

### The son also rises

The North Korean leader, Kim Jong Il, who has yet to take on his late father's titles of president and party leader, had fully inherited his "absolute authority", the official news agency said. Officials have indicated that Mr Kim would formally assume the top posts after the third anniversary of his father's death on 8 July.

AP - Tokyo

### Oil giants feel heat in Nigeria

Shell said three more of its workers have been hurt in Nigeria, one seriously, and another oil company, Chevron, reported it too has been caught up in a local Nigerian political dispute. Shell said more than 120 of its staff and contractors were still being held by the villagers who overrun six oil-flow stations in the western Niger Delta on Saturday.

Reuters - London

### Boost for new Kremlin minister

The leader of Russia's main liberal opposition party, Yabloko, ruled out joining the new government but offered support for the reformist First Deputy Prime Minister, Boris Nemtsov.

Reuters - Moscow

### Anger over Zaire refugees

The head of the UN's refugee agency attacked the international community over the Zaire crisis saying the situation was the worst her agency had faced. Sadako Ogata said her staff had been abandoned by the international community.

Reuters - Cape Town

### East Timor accusation

The East Timor independence leader, Jose Ramos Horta, accused Indonesian troops of using gunfire and bayonets to break up a demonstration in a hotel lobby "under the nose" of a UN peace-maker. He said 18 young East Timorese were seriously wounded in the weekend clash in the island's capital, Dili, where the UN special envoy, James Baker, was staying.

Reuters - Geneva

### Vietnam executives arrested

Vietnam reported the arrest of two prominent business executives amid concern over loan problems in the banking system arising from failed property speculation. Tang Minh Phung and Lien Khuu Thin were held on charges of "taking advantage of confidence to appropriate citizens' and socialist property".

Reuters - Hanoi

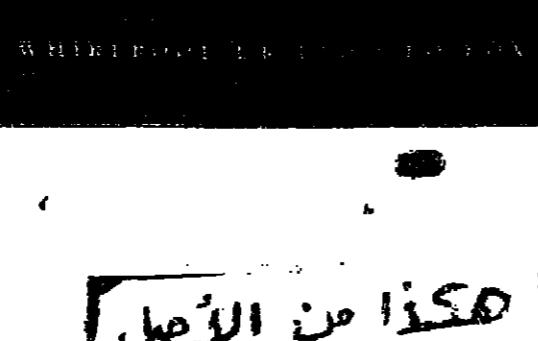
### Risky business

Natural and man-made disasters killed 22,000 people last year and wreaked \$50bn (£31bn) of damage. Only a quarter of this was covered by insurance, according to a study by Swiss Reinsurance Company.

AP - Zurich

# A WASHING MACHINE THAT'S EASIER TO UNLOAD?

IT'S NOT MAGIC. IT'S WHIRLPOOL.



# The EU must now turn towards the east

**T**here was a certain lack of confidence about yesterday's celebrations in Rome of the 40th anniversary of the treaties that gave birth to the European Union.

Despite the EU's manifest achievements in consolidating peace and prosperity across half of Europe, the self-congratulations sounded less convincing than the self-doubts. For perhaps the first time in its history, the EU seems to be in need of a fresh vision, a rejuvenated sense of purpose, a boldness and creativity of spirit of the kind which inspired its formation in 1957.

Part of the explanation for the mood of self-critical introspection lies in the awareness that on several important policy fronts the EU has not come up to scratch in recent years. Mass unemployment and low growth are the norm in most member-states, and the best brains in the EU seem to be unable to crack the problem. The economic future seems to lie not just with East Asia, as predicted for so long, but also with a reinvigorated United States, whose job creation rate is much superior to the EU's.

In terms of forging an effective common foreign and security policy, too, the EU has fallen short of its own aspirations. Time and again it has been hobbled by its internal divisions – towards former Yugoslavia, the Middle East, Albania and Turkey, to

name just four recent problems. Even the increased use of majority voting in foreign policy matters, which is under discussion at the EU's conference on revising the Maastricht treaty, seems unlikely to do more than improve cooperation on relatively marginal issues.

Yet the most fundamental problem confronting the EU is not the failure of specific institutions or policies. It is the persistent lack of clarity about what should constitute the mission and identity of Europe in an age freed of the great ideological dispute between liberal market democracy and Communism. Within our grasp we have the prospect of a free, undivided, democratic Europe, and yet the EU seems uncertain both about its role in building that Europe, and about which countries should be part of it.

For sure, the EU is committed to eventually absorbing at least 10 former Communist countries – Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia and the three Baltic states. Yet sometimes the EU seems scared of the implications of this proposed expansion. The countries that benefit most from the Common Agricultural Policy and which lap up the EU's structural funds (transfers of money from rich member-states to poor) seem to be in no hurry to let less well-off central and eastern Europeans feed at the same trough.

Others, at Brussels and inside cer-

tain national governments, grumble that the early admission of the former Communist countries will dilute the EU too much, preventing the emergence of a European political union. Hence, in their eyes, the paramount importance of launching the single currency on schedule in January 1999. Any delay in that project, and it is virtually certain that a coalition of states would emerge with the aim of postponing next year's membership negotiations for some or all of the central and eastern Europeans.

This would be a terrible tragedy, a victory for narrow-mindedness over

imagination and courage. If the EU needs a goal to motivate it in coming years, surely no cause could be more deserving of sustained support than the unification of eastern and western Europe in democracy and peace, the planting and nurturing of prosperity in the east, the healing of ethnic minority conflicts and border disputes – in short, the whole-hearted embrace of an opportunity that has never before arisen in European history?

No less important is the need to clear up misunderstandings about where Europe's borders begin and end. Of crucial significance in this

regard is the position of Turkey, which some EU states want to exclude for ever, but to which Britain and France in particular want to hold open the prospect of membership.

This issue has not only split the EU down the middle, but has also caused a needless dispute with the US, which sees Turkish association with Europe as an essential anchor of its pro-American regional security role.

Given its population of 62 million, its economic underdevelopment, its Kurdish civil war and its problematic record on human rights and military involvement in politics, it is hard to see how Turkey could join the EU as of today. Yet the argument of some EU states – that, as an Islamic country, Turkey can never be part of Europe – is fatuous, ignores the similarities between Turkey and Muslim-populated EU countries, and contradicts the liberal values that the EU should be upholding.

Now of all times is not the moment for the EU to retreat into its shell. It needs to take on challenges, not shy away from them. The turmoil in Albania cried out for energetic EU engagement, not a response that amounted to throwing up the drawbridge and letting Albanians drown in the suffering of an unwanted corner of Europe.

Last June the Czech President, Vaclav Havel, called on Europe "to

rediscover, consciously embrace and in some way articulate its soul". The EU can do these things and, in the process, regain its confidence and redefine its identity. Its mission lies in central and eastern Europe, where with determination, imagination and generosity, it will achieve results every bit as laudable as those it secured in western Europe after 1957.

## No smoke without votes

So now we know. Tony Blair has never sniffed, puffed, popped, piped or otherwise ingested or imbued any illegal substance ever in his life. The truth is, we knew that anyway – because if he had done, we can be sure his living room would be a great deal more psychedelically intriguing than it is. But what does his refusal of drugs (since he must many times have been invited to use them during his long-haired, guitar-strumming student days) say about the man? And how will his behaviour play among voters? No doubt decent upstanding Britons, particularly parents, will applaud his firm stand. What young people think may be something else. But then, the worrying thing about them is how many seem disinclined to vote altogether.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### It's people the Tories dump on the streets

Sir: I feel compelled to add a few instances to the long and deeply moving letter from Graham and Eleanor Wright (24 March), contrasting today's world with pre-Conservative union troubles.

Today the "piles of rotting rubbish" that one trips over in the street consist merely of discarded people, not (as then) of household waste. (To be fair, the household waste did not ask us for money.)

London Transport will not be clear whether the Wrights' claim that "state monopolies have crumbled" alludes to the physical state of the system or to the fact that disruption of service is no longer a trades-union monopoly but has been made "stable and competent" on a daily basis in the good cause of keeping the "lowest basic fare rate" down.

C CURRIE

London NW1

Sir: Graham and Eleanor Wright recall some events of the Seventies that happened under a Labour government. I can recall other images of that decade: strikes and power cuts, three-day working weeks, statutory pay freeze, rising unemployment, rising inflation.

All these happened in the Seventies, but under a Conservative government. Since then the world economy and the Tories have changed. It is sensible to assume that Labour has changed also.

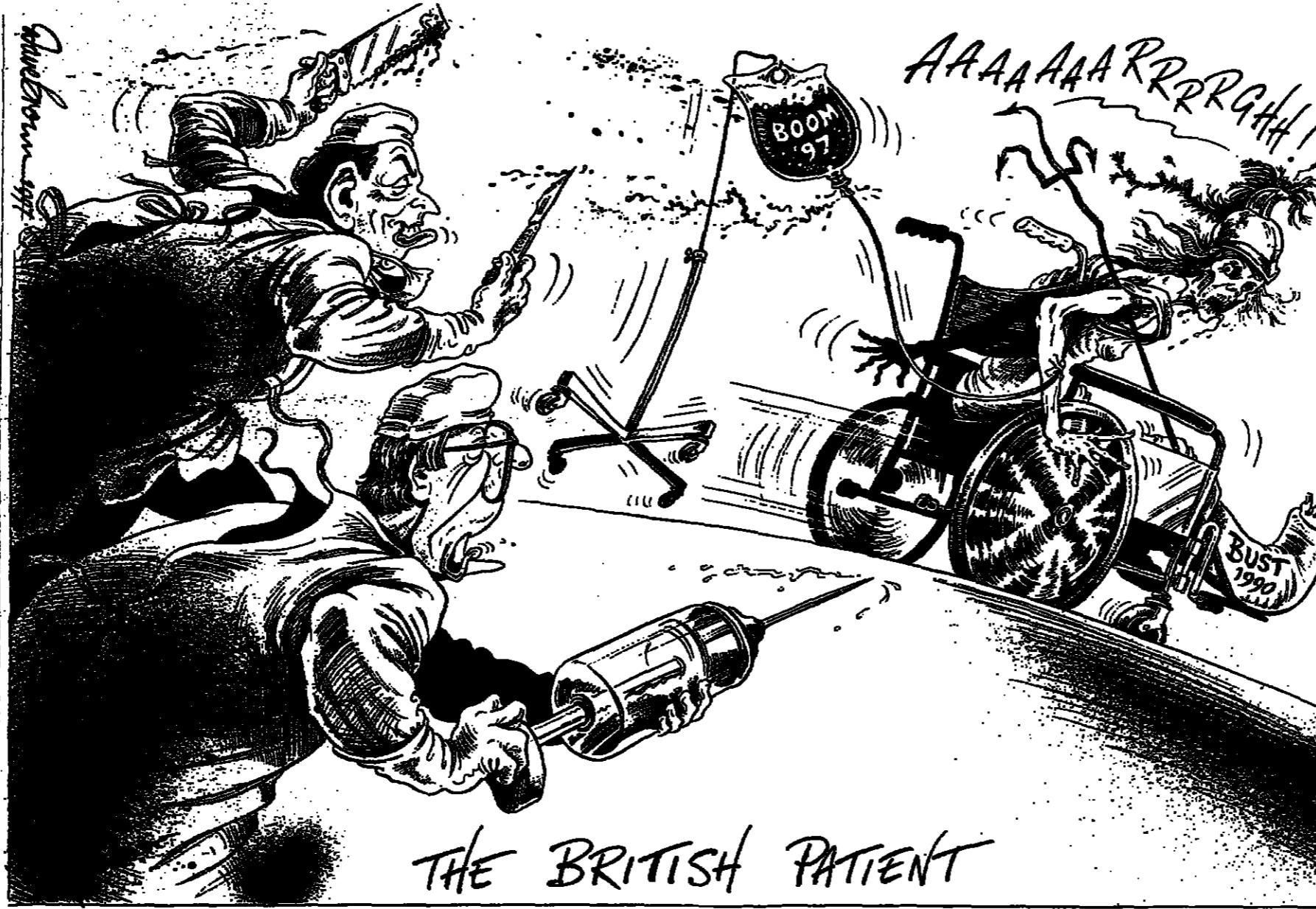
TONY WALLIS  
Castleford, West Yorkshire

Sir: Paul Valéry ("Hidden virtues of loser-friendly Liverpool", 11 March) pines wistfully after those bygone days of communal solidarity which he believes to be manifested in the current "struggle" of the Liverpool dockers. If only such social cohesion pervaded the whole of society, then what benefits could be derived by this selfless devotion to the common cause, suggests Mr Valéry.

But there is a downside to such "solidarity". The worst consequences of such "social cohesion" were demonstrated to the world between 1939 and 1945 – hence Western society's canonisation ever since of the individual and individual rights. The more the individuals in such a group identify with each other, the more they identify non-members of the group as "outsiders", different, inferior.

Every "noble" act of the dismissed Liverpool dockers perceived by national journalists and local clergy alike, is matched by some offence inflicted on the "non-believers". Hence the working docker is a "scab" to be targeted for ruthless persecution; whose house is fair game for vandalism and arson; whose wife and daughter are threatened with having acid thrown in their faces; whose right to follow a different religion to the group does not exist.

Social cohesion and solidarity can be attractive notions to the Western mentality – especially to those in nostalgic mood. The dark side is less appealing. Those who choose to write about it should reflect both sides of the picture. Those of us who are the "outsiders" deserve that much. ERIC LEATHERBROWNE  
Communication Manager  
The Mersey Docks and Harbour Company  
Liverpool



### Blame parties for 'silly moos'

Sir: We wish to take issue with Poly Tynbee's assertion that because one third of women have not yet decided how to vote they are "floating and dithering" "silly moos" who "don't care about politics ... and don't want to know" ("Women, the forgotten voters", 24 March).

Our research, which she referred to, shows clearly that women care deeply about many pressing social and political issues and that their perspectives on a range of mainstream policy areas are being ignored by all the major parties.

Our report, *What Women Want on Politics*, is based on a survey of 10,000 women's views and detailed analysis of party policy. It suggests that when women are asked what they want, rather than asked to comment on existing political agendas, the issues they prioritise are significantly different from those highlighted by the parties.

Poly Tynbee finds it hard to forgive that many (older) women vote Tory. Yet the more important point (and the one politicians are finding difficult to accept) is that none of the parties is fully reflecting women's concerns and that asking the way a woman votes does not necessarily say much about what she really cares about.

Moreover, to lay responsibility for the poll tax Europhobia, privatised fat cats and poverty at women's door does us an injustice when those policies emanate from what remains an overwhelmingly male political system offering an ever-reduced political choice.

The puzzle remains if politicians are concerned about wooling

female voters, why are they so unwilling to address them directly, and admit publicly that women still face inequalities in many aspects of their private and public lives?

SUE TIBBALS  
CHARLOTTE ADCOCK  
The Women's Communication Centre  
London W6

Sir: A few days ago, my 84-year-old mother said she was not going to bother to vote at the general election. Her seven-year-old grandson, Thomas, rounded on her and asked "Have you never heard of the suffragettes?"

When my mother admitted she had, Tom told her: "Those women tied themselves to railings, went to prison and had all sorts of horrific things done to them so that women like you could vote. So you have got to vote!" My mother muttered something about him being right, and changed the subject.

Mrs MARQUITA BENCH  
London SW7

Sir: Andrea Cook (letter, 21 March) argues that the discounting of gas charges for direct debit payers, and the consequent fact that those using pre-payment meters pay more for their gas, is the unacceptable face of competition. I disagree.

It is standard commercial practice for retailers to discount

charges to those who buy large amounts and/or pay by direct debit. It is appropriate that businesses charge customers a price that reflects the true cost of servicing those customers, encouraging an efficiency of operation that benefits us all.

It is emphatically not the job of businesses or their regulators to second-guess the Government on social policy as to which sections of the community are most deserving of subsidy. It is the case that this logic results in higher prices for utility services to those on lower income. Hence the fuel cost element in social security benefits should be increased.

PAUL GARDEN  
London SW19

Sir: The transfer of immigration and asylum matters ("Dutch to unveil plan for multi-speed EU", 24 March) to Community competence has important significance for the future protection of human rights in the European Union. Treatment of these issues, presently dealt with in secret, intergovernmental "third pillar" meetings, has been consistently criticised for lack of democratic and judicial accountability.

While the move to "community" will potentially provide a better constitutional basis for decisions in this area, the

degree of protection is in the details. Although it is proposed that the European Court of Justice will be competent to adjudicate, there appears to be no proposal to fully involve the European Parliament. As the new title is to include regulation of persons, which currently requires parliament's agreement under the co-decision procedure, this would represent a dilution of democratic control.

If there is a serious wish to address the democratic deficit during this Inter-Governmental Conference, empowering the only directly elected institution to play a greater role seems essential. This would be backed by the proposed protocol to provide a legally binding minimum period for national parliaments to ensure effective scrutiny of the same proposals at member-state level.

PETER NOORLANDER  
Justice  
London EC4

Sir: You report ("Tories accused of tobacco industry pay-off", 22 March) allegations about the tobacco industry's recent voluntary agreement with the Government on permitted additives. The impression has been given that some sinister deal was done behind closed doors.

There has been no "pay-off", as

ASH describes, and it is scurrilous to suggest such a notion.

The list of permitted additives which has been recently reviewed and updated consists of either natural ingredients, or those which can properly be described as "nature-identical". This list has long been held by the Department of Health, and is in the public domain.

Such added ingredients in the UK are mainly concerned with flavours for pipe, hand-rolling, and cigar tobacco, with regular cigarettes here overwhelmingly consisting of nothing more than the basic tobacco, plus some water content, all within the paper tubing, along with its filter.

As for the reference to the Government's failure to reach its 1994 objectives in terms of reducing teenage smoking, it has now been admitted that the targets set were hopelessly unrealistic. Looking back over 12 years of Government research findings, smoking incidence among the under-16s has shown one year's upturn offset by another's downturn. The overall trend has been remarkably stable.

CLIVE TURNER  
Tobacco Manufacturers' Association  
London SW1

Sir: The Government seems to underestimate the importance of sleaze to the electorate. What they haven't understood is that many people regard privatisation and deregulation as the crime. Sleaze is just the evidence.

BRIAN GASCOIGNE  
London NW3

### Israeli bulldozers a world threat

Sir: The bulldozers at Har Homa must stop. They were set in motion to serve the short-term domestic interests of Mr Netanyahu, the Israeli Prime Minister, but unless reversed, their effects will spread far beyond the Middle East and risk sending dangerous vibrations worldwide.

President Clinton, as leader of the sole superpower, has courageously enlisted, though with varying degrees of success, the potential of the United States in the promotion of peace in the most troubled areas of the world – Ireland, former Yugoslavia, Africa and the Middle East. The Oslo agreement gave reasonable hope that the peace process might lead to understanding and accommodation between the Arab and Jewish peoples in the Middle East.

The bulldozers bid fair to extinguish that hope. They have strengthened the status of the Arab extremists from Algeria to Afghanistan – see Robert Fisk's dispatch from there (22 March) – and the risk is now high that these will direct terrorism, including Islam's suicide bombers, against any American establishment in the Middle East. The consequent loss of American lives can only strengthen the isolationist sentiment that is never far below the surface in the United States.

All of us in America and Europe who have in the past supported Israel's reasonable interests should now send an urgent and unequivocal message that we are not prepared to see Mr Netanyahu play his domestic politics to the detriment of our worldwide interests. The United States should reinforce this message, as only it can, with the termination of American financial support.

ANTONY MOORE  
Brill, Buckinghamshire

### Trollope tip for Abbey charges

Sir: An article on 21 March states that Westminster Abbey could charge visitors admission art admission fee "for the first time in its history".

In Trollope's *The Warden* (published 1855), the Rev Septimus Harding, having to get through a long day in London, "determined to take sanctuary in Westminster Abbey, so he again went there in an omnibus and finding that the doors were not open for morning service, he paid his twopence, and went in as a sightseer" (Chapter 15).

Trollope would not have invented such a charge. The Westminster authorities can claim that a precedent has been established.

A TILLOTSON  
Cambridge

### Baker bites back

Sir: Having been around the showbiz block long enough to know that any interview is at the mercy of the premeditation and stylistic limitations of the journalist involved, I note the less find it depressing that my quotes – even inaccurate ones – are still reported in hoary "cockney-ese" ("A few quiet words with Danny Baker", 24 March).

Yes, I talk with a south London accent. But would your Deborah Ross be so phonetically pedantic if that accent were French, Russian or, heaven forbid, Asian?

DANNY BAKER  
London SE5

### Secret EU deals on immigrants

Sir: The transfer of immigration and asylum matters ("Dutch to unveil plan for multi-speed EU", 24 March) to Community competence has important significance for the future protection of human rights in the European Union. Treatment of these issues, presently dealt with in secret, intergovernmental "third pillar" meetings, has been consistently criticised for lack of democratic and judicial accountability.

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Post letters to Letters to the Editor, and include a daytime telephone number. Fax 0171-293 2056; e-mail: letters@independent.co.uk. E-mail correspondents are asked to give a postal address. Letters may be edited for length and clarity. We regret we are unable to acknowledge unpublished letters.

# Makers of their own tragedy

Orlando Figes has written an account of the Russian revolution that spares no one: not the old regime, nor the Communists, nor the people. Andrew Marr spoke to the author about history's lessons

**T**he state, however big, cannot make people equal or better human beings. All it can do is treat its citizens equally, and strive to ensure that their free activities are directed towards the general good. After a century dominated by the twin totalitarians of Communism and Fascism, one can only hope that this lesson has been learned. As we enter the 21st century, we must try to strengthen our democracy, both as a source of freedom and of social justice, lest the disengaged reject it again.

These are among the concluding words of a vast, hugely impressive history of the Russian revolution, *A People's Tragedy*, by Orlando Figes, which today won the 1997 WH Smith literary award. It tells the story of the greatest political upheaval of modern times, from the decay of Tsarism in the 1890s to its effective re-establishment under the monster Stalin in the Twenties. And it comes with a sting in the tail.

This is a remarkable book for many reasons. It is the fruit of years spent in the archive of the October Revolution and the Communist Party archives in Moscow. Figes got to know the key archives when they first began to open to outsiders in the late Eighties, and sat among the journalistic scavengers who came and went looking for spy stories.

Unlike them, he befriended the underpaid Russian archivists and emerged with a grisly but fascinating treasure trove.

Out of that trove, he has made a book which can change the way we think about Russia and what is happening there today. It is a history studded with gleaming, vivid personal stories and vignettes. First intended to help general readers through the book, they became essential.

Though this is grim stuff, there are hilarious and poignant moments. For instance, there is a glorious account of the Bolsheviks going to open talks with the invading Germans in 1917. They decide to bring representatives of the Russian workers, soldiers, sailors, peasants and women with them for propaganda purposes. On the way to Petrograd's Warsaw railway station, they realise they have forgotten to bring a peasant.

What to do? As their car speeds through the city, they pass a bearded old man trudging home, pretend to give him a lift, and drag him off to Brest-Litovsk to make peace with the Germans. So the peasant, who was only trying to get home to his village, finds himself sitting drinking claret in Brest-Litovsk with Prince Ernst von Hohenlohe and discussing the future of mankind.

A chilling picture of cannibalism during the Russian revolution, uncovered by Orlando Figes (right). Main photograph: Kalpesh Lathigra

Throughout, Figes uses key

observers who act as a kind of Greek chorus. There is Sergei Semenov, the idealistic and radical peasant leader, who migrates to the city under the Tsar, endures abuse and hardship trying to improve his village's lot, and ends up murdered by jealous rivals in 1922.

Above all, there is Gorky, who had a love-hate relationship with Lenin, courageously abusing him for his murders and repression, surviving the horrors of starving Petrograd, fleeing abroad – and who eventually returned to be exploited,

and perhaps murdered, by Stalin. Gorky's hopes and disillusion haunt the book.

All of that would have been remarkable enough. But this is also a history that goes beyond the conventional accounts of the revolution. We have grown used to the leftist version, in which Lenin is the betrayed, Christ-like hero and Stalin the bitter nemesis; and to rival histories from right-wingers which emphasise the reforms being carried on under the last Tsar – implying that, for the Bolsheviks and some misfortunes in the First World War, Russia would have evolved into a benign, Western-style democracy.

Figes' thesis is bolder and less comfortable. His political angle is hard to discern from the book. It is certainly not right wing. No sentimental supporter of Tsar Nicholas could survive Figes' account of the old regime's anti-Semitism brutality and bone-headed stupidity. The democrats and liberals were better people but awful politicians, who, as Figes told me, saw the revolution as if it was France in 1789, and made every wrong turn. Kerensky comes across as a Napoleonic buffoon; the White generals as

hopeless; and Lenin, whom Figes clearly loathes, as a cynical monster.

Figes doesn't think Lenin will ever regain his pre-Revolutionary reputation among leftist intellectuals as the full story of his role and savage views spills out of the Moscow and St Petersburg archives. Nor does Trotsky emerge as his Western admirers would wish; the gourmandising and dandyish orator was not as important in the civil war, or in the Bolshevik party, as was thought.

This has been misunderstood by some reviewers, Figes says, as anti-Russian bigotry. "I am trying to grapple with the problem of violence, which was central to the revolution". The Russians thought of democracy as being synonymous with the victory of the labouring people. Once that was established, the problem of what to do with the rest, the bourgeoisie, was inescapable. Peasants would have happily turned them into peasants but they were also vulnerable to the bloodthirsty rhetoric of the Bolsheviks.

So this is a story, to adopt another historian's title (about Scotland, as it happens) of "no gods and precious few heroes". Huge in scope, brilliant in vignette, dark and implacable in theme, it is a modern masterpiece. But does it matter now? Has it, really, any messages for the blander, safer-seeming world 80 years on?

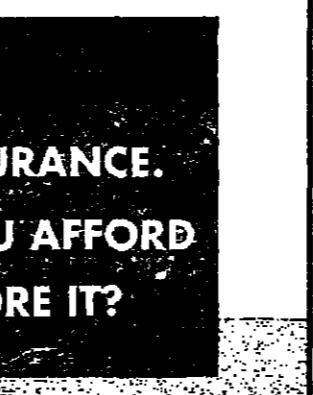
Figes sees strong and ominous parallels between the Russia of 1917 and the Russia that he sees since the 1991 toppling of Communism. Then as now, politics was mostly about being against people and ideas – against Kerensky, against the Mensheviks, against Yeltsin, against Zhirinov – rather than for anything specific. Then and now, "Russia seems unable to form a stable democratic and civic politics which doesn't fall into corruption and the alienation of ordinary people".

Then as now, the toppling of the old order leads to utterly naive and over-optimistic beliefs about the future. For many in 1917, as Figes puts it, "Socialism and democracy were magical words – there was a euphoric belief that by becoming the freest democracy in the world, Russia would suddenly become Western, that everything would be better – people would be richer, drunkennes would stop, people would stop beating their wives".

Perhaps even more worrying, authoritarian nationalism has begun to fill the vacuum left by the collapse of Communism ... their violent rhetoric, with its calls for discipline and order, its angry condemnation of the inequalities produced by the growth of capitalism, and its xenophobic rejection of the West, is itself adapted from the Bolshevik tradition. The ghosts of 1917 have not been laid to rest.

No one who has worked their way through this extraordinary book could help but be a little chilled by that. His view of Russia is bleak, I suggested yesterday. "I think it is bleak. I'm afraid there is no other way of putting it."

"*A People's Tragedy: the Russian revolution 1821-1924*" by Orlando Figes (Jonathan Cape, £20).



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## Enter His Lordship, with a roll of trousers

**B**efore judges are obliged to reveal whether they are Masons or not, attention should be paid to a most extraordinary trial which is going on in the High Court at the moment, in which a Mr Sidney Minghella is accused of attempted murder. Here is an extract from yesterday's proceedings...

Judge: Before we go any further, may I say how very much I have enjoyed the performance so far of the counsel for the defence?

Counsel for the Defence: May I say in turn how much I have learnt from your Lordship's conduct of the case? Your lordship seems imbued with wisdom.

Judge: Hmm. Are you a mason by any chance?

Defence: Yes, m'Lud, I am.

Judge: What a coincidence! So am I.

Defence: Yes, m'Lud, I know.

(Smiles and winks ingratiatingly at the judge.)

Counsel for the Prosecution:

Objection, m'Lud!

Judge: What objection?

Prosecution: It is quite outrageous that you, m'Lud, and the counsel for the defence are

building up this improper relationship as fellow masons! This can only be prejudicial to the case!

Judge: How ridiculous. Are you a freemason?

Prosecution: Yes, of course.

Judge: There you are, then. We're all masons, on both sides.

You are as free to chum up as he is. No prejudice involved at all.

Prosecution: But there must be prejudice! It's inevitable!

Judge: What rubbish! If you had two football teams playing each other, do you think a player on one side would be more gentle in the tackle with an opposing player just because they were both members of – I don't know, the Playboy Club?

Prosecution: The Playboy Club ceased trading years ago, m'Lud.

Prosecution: Friendship is money.

Judge: Did it? Well, that certainly explains why it always seems to be closed when I go there. What do footballers do then?

Prosecution: They shake your hand, all together we fall on

stand! (The jury stand and applaud this nifty bit of chorale work.)

Jury Foreman: May I inquire, m'Lud, on behalf of the jury,

if that was a rather exciting bit of masonic ritual or simply part of the evidence which we can safely ignore?

Judge: It's a very unusual name, Minghella.

Defendant: Not in Milan, it's – the Milan phone book is stuffed full of Minghellas.

Prosecution: Are you in fact from Milan?

Defendant: No, I'm from Bromley in Kent.

Prosecution: Hum. And are you in fact a mason?

Defendant: Well, perhaps we can swap application forms in the break.

Prosecution: My Lord, this is quite intolerable! You are now forming attachments to people who are only potential masons and not members at all yet!

Judge: Shows my impartiality, I think. Now, carry on with the cross-questioning for heaven's sake. That's what you are

paid for. Paid for too much, in my opinion, but that's another matter.

Prosecution: Yes, m'Lud. Now, defendant, your name is Sidney Minghella?

Defendant: Yes, it is.

Prosecution: Are you any relation to Anthony Minghella?

Defendant: Who?

Prosecution: He is a distinguished film-director.

More of this disquieting case tomorrow, I hope.



**Miles Kington**

Judge: Get on with it, then. We don't hang about in the masons, you know. Time is money.

Prosecution: Friendship is money.

Defence: Money is money!

All three: (Chanting together)

Ra ra ra! Masons all! Backs

together, we stand or fall!

Roll your trousers, shake your

hand, all together we fall on

stand! (The jury stand and applaud this nifty bit of chorale work.)

Jury Foreman: May I inquire, m'Lud, on behalf of the jury,

if that was a rather exciting bit of masonic ritual or simply part of the evidence which we can safely ignore?

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## Global floaters versus the local voters

**T**here are two groups of people – one which does not vote at all, the other which votes only in insignificant numbers – whose views are attracting inordinate attention in this election. The first are the men (it is always men) who control foreign companies with investments here, while we as a country wish to continue to attract companies such as Nissan and Toyota. The second are rich individuals who might up sticks and leave, and whom we wish to retain: British celebs like Frank Bruno and Lord Lloyd-Webber, of course, but also the many foreign residents who have chosen to locate in the UK.

The fact that their views should be front-page news is testimony to a remarkable shift in power in the world economy. To be successful in economic terms, countries have to make themselves attractive to these two immensely powerful global baronies: international financial capital; and international human capital. Politicians, accustomed to fabricating their policies to be attractive to domestic voters, suddenly find two new constituencies to which they have to appeal.

The constituency of the international company may seem a familiar one. After all, we have had Ford and General Motors operating here for three-quarters of a century. But in the last 10 years the power balance has changed both in perception and in reality.

We perceive that inward investment is much more important, because we are aware of the extent to which we relied on it throughout the Eighties to revitalise the economy. In addition, it is more important because multinationals are much more mobile.

Of course, you cannot lift a car factory and plant it in another country, but whereas opening a foreign plant used to be a rare event, now it is completely normal. A car firm manages a string of factories around the world like a portfolio, shutting one in one country, opening another in another. If this is true for cars, the largest consumer item to be mass-manufactured, it is much more true for newer products, things such as PCs or chips, where the efficient unit size for a factory is smaller. And the more mobile investment capital becomes, the harder countries have to work to attract it.

Smaller changes have taken place in human capital. Skilled people, particularly Britons who could move easily to Canada, Australia and the States, have long been quite mobile. The "brain drain" was a familiar lament during the Sixties and Seventies. But there have been two new trends here as well:

One is that the UK has become a much more significant importer of clever people – at least, people valued highly in the marketplace, which is not quite the same thing. There has been a flood of foreign talent attracted into financial services, for example, and the growth of London as a media and communications centre has created a string of media-related international jobs. The pool of



**Hamish McRae**  
Multi-national companies, and clever individuals, can go anywhere. They must be wooed to stay in Britain

foreign professionals in the UK is enormous. When the European Bank opened in the City, it had to fill several hundred professional jobs with non-Britons, divided into various national quotas. It found could fill 70 per cent of those jobs with people already based in London.

The other trend is the growth of a new breed of global citizens, people for whom choice of residence is little more than a convenience. Some are celebrities: open the pages of *Hello!* and you catch a glimpse of that end of the market. Americans sharing with readers their country house in Gloucestershire, Britons with one in Malibu, French living in Geneva, and so on. Others are international business people, the sort who read the *International Herald Tribune*. I realised that *IHT*-readers were a breed apart when filling out a subscriber questionnaire on Monday. One of the boxes you had to tick was whether you had a private jet and, if so, was it owned personally, or through the company?

This phenomenon of the growth of a new élite, independent of the rest of the country, was noted by Robert Reich, the university professor and friend of President Clinton who became labour secretary in Clinton's first administration. In his book *The Work of Nations*, Reich argued that this new élite was cutting itself off from the rest of the country. These people would intermarry, send their children to the best schools, pass on their wealth, and thereby entrench their position even more securely.

Reich saw this principally in US terms, but it is more interesting as an international issue. At least while these people had to stay in one country, governments could extract more taxes from them and redistribute some of the money, as Reich argued they should. But if the people just move, then it becomes harder to call for large-scale redistribution. Besides, countries need not just this new élite's money, perhaps even more, than its skills.

To acknowledge this is uncomfortable. It is much easier to say that we should not be relying so much on foreign inward investment, or, more snobbishly, that if Lord Lloyd-Webber wants to go (and it is not clear that he does) his departure would be to the cultural benefit of the country. It is tough to have to acknowledge that politicians, trained to construct policies that will appeal to voters, are also to construct policies which appeal to non-voters.

But, from the tone of the political debate, you can see that politicians are aware of the need to broaden their appeal. Labour has sought not just to reassure British taxpayers, not just to reassure foreign investors, but also to reassure foreign nationals who have come to work or live in the UK. For though the new mobility of financial and human capital in one sense diminishes a national politician's power, it also creates an opportunity. Create a climate attractive to both forms of capital, and the world will bear a path to your door.

## Marriage, divorce and the bottom line



**Diane Coyle**  
Rich women are more likely to ditch their husbands. Rich men are less likely to divorce

explaining patterns of marriage and divorce – fewer of the former and more of the latter, on both sides of the Atlantic. Big earnings turn out to make a big difference to these most personal of decisions.

A money motive did emerge,

however, when David disappeared to Spain, having emptied the joint bank account and run up a £10,000 overdraft. He told a local newspaper: "It was imperative for money to be invested abroad, to keep it away from my wife."

The three Bristol University economists speaking at yesterday's conference (in romantic Stoke-on-Trent) reckon that money always gets to the heart of the matter. There have been enormous social changes during the past two decades that go a long way to

less, but they want you more. Equally, when married to a rich partner, you will be more reluctant to give up their income by divorcing them. The problem is that they will be an attractive prize for potential rivals. There are countervailing pressures.

Data on marital histories confirm the importance of money. For one thing, the higher somebody's income and the better educated they are – whether male or female – the later they are likely to marry in the first place. Also, the big difference between men and women turns out to apply to high-income earners.

The balance between being a good catch and being financially self-supporting is different for the sexes. Rich men, once caught, tend to stay caught. They get married later, but stay married longer, on average, than low-earning males. Rich women also marry later, but once married are more likely than their poorer sisters to bail out. For women, high earnings buy freedom and make marriage an optional extra, in financial terms at any rate.

Mrs Hart would have done well to think about her financial position before letting passion sweep her away. She has put the £250,000 family house up for sale, but is reported to have said: "I am ruined."

The normal human reaction to this particular divorce, about as messy as can be, seems to have come from Mr Hart's mother. Hectored about David's abandonment of his financial responsibilities to keep his wife and pay the children's private school fees, she told her daughter-in-law to "roast in hell". For the penalties beyond this world, there is no cost-benefit analysis.

## Why teaching is sexy in the States

by Ann Treneman

**C**atherine Edwards thought she wanted to be a paediatrician and then, at the age of 19, she took a class at UCLA (University of California at Los Angeles) called Education 180. "I realised that the reason I wanted to be a paediatrician was to help other people, especially children, and that I could accomplish this by being a teacher."

She is not alone. After decades in the wilderness, teaching is once again a profession of choice in America and the likes of Ms Edwards, now 21, are on the cutting edge of a trend that few dared to predict. "Teaching is hot!" exclaims Arthur Levine, president of Teachers' College, Columbia University, in New York City. Admission applications at the top college are up 54 per cent on last year and 115 per cent over three years ago.

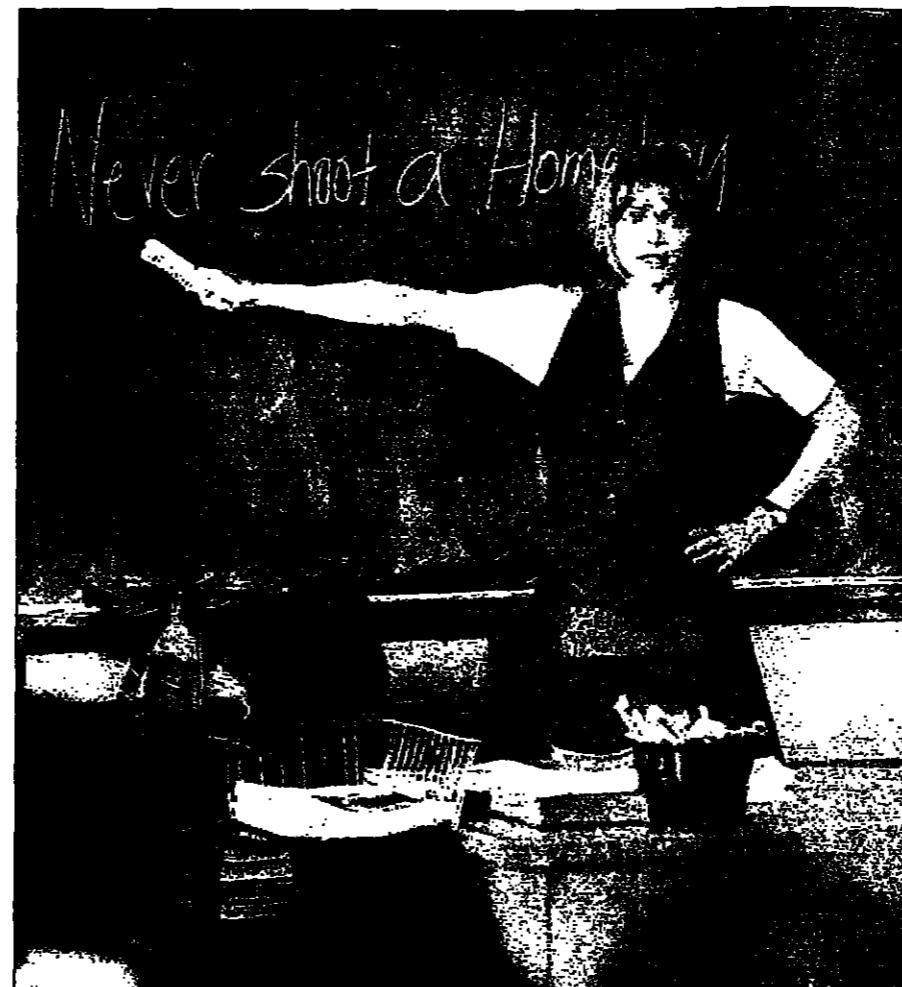
That story is repeated, though less dramatically, at teaching programmes around the US. The boom is being fuelled by a new spirit of idealism among the young, and also among forty-somethings who are starting second careers. What some people are calling the most progressive mood since the Sixties is well-timed: there is a national shortage of teachers. So, could it happen in Britain too?

Certainly some factors are similar. Interviews with undergraduates in America show that the Me Generation is ancient history and the notorious Generation X is fading fast. In its place is the We Generation and these young people are driven not by money or status but by idealism and the desire to give something back.

"This is a generation in which more than six out of 10 students are now involved in community service," says Mr Levine. "This generation is very interested in politics, but not national or international politics. They are interested in local politics. They do not believe in national leaders. They don't believe in government. They don't believe in most of our social institutions. But they do believe they can make a difference in their community, in their schools, as a teacher."

He quotes one student from the University of Colorado, who captured the mood: "For my generation teaching is the equivalent of the Peace Corps."

Rather than teach the poor of Africa or dig a well in Guatemala, Catherine Edwards aims to teach special education in her own country. She talks



Teacher as local heroine: Michelle Pfeiffer takes to the classroom in *Dangerous Minds*

In America, the 'Me Generation' is giving way to the 'We Generation' as more people opt to put something back into society

with huge enthusiasm about the revolution taking place in classrooms now dominated by group and computer work.

"No one is fired up about standing in front of a group talking a bunch of mumbo-jumbo that they are not going to remember in a week. But there is a lot of excitement about interaction and technology."

But what about the money?

A paediatrician manages to help people and get rich. The average salary of a teacher in America is about \$38,000 (£25,000). "I have run into some criticism with people saying I'm wasting my education and asking why I'm entering such a non-lucrative field," says Ms

Edwards. "In my opinion these people are missing the boat. That is not what it is all about. The phrase you hear over and over again from people who want to be teachers is: 'I want to make a difference'. There is no one better person to turn on a light bulb in a kid's head than a teacher and to be able to have that kind of profound impact is really incredible."

Like many of her already done her fair share of volunteer work, and America's largest survey of 18-year-old college students shows that the volunteer spirit has never been so infectious. "We've asked about it for 12 years and have seen an increase since 1989. Currently 71.8 per

cent of students say they do frequent volunteer work," says the UCLA survey director Linda Sax. The study also showed the highest interest for 23 years in becoming a teacher.

The interest in teaching seems to be prompted by the same kind of concerns that we see as to why they are volunteering – concern for the community and about education in general," says Ms Sax. "They do not think they can change larger society but they are trying to do what they can to is change what they know, which is their community."

The profession is also attracting other kinds of winners. Mr Levine talks of one student who was older than most of the professors.

"This was someone who had worked his whole life on Wall Street, and what he had finally decided was that he had made his money and now he wanted to have a job that was socially satisfying."

Catherine Edwards knows the feeling: she wants to make a difference too. It is the Nineties, after all, and she is in the best of company.

## Football hero in honesty shock

**I**t was a seminal moment in British sport. Maybe it was a seminal moment for British society.

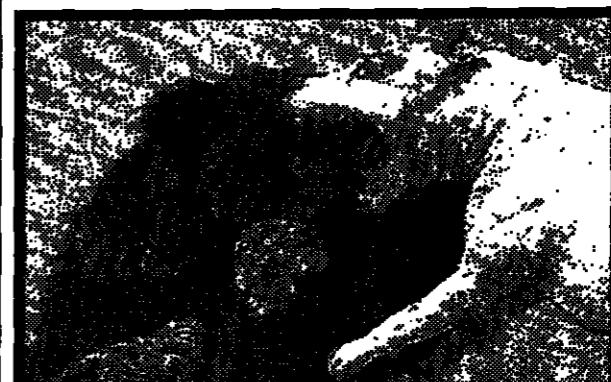
On Monday night Robbie Fowler, the Liverpool and England striker, was awarded a penalty in a top-of-the-table clash against Arsenal after being apparently tripped by the Arsenal and England goalkeeper David Seaman. Then something happened, something so bizarre it has no precedent in the modern game.

Fowler was honest. He turned to the ref (and to the TV cameras) and mouthed "No, no", waving dismissively that it was not really a penalty. He had simply tripped. Seaman had not touched him.

I was reminded of Tom Stoppard's comedy *Professional Foul*, which mixes football and philosophy. A philosopher asks a professional footballer why players from opposing teams always appeal for a throw-in when "every bloody time" the player who actually kicked it out of play knows that he did. What are the moral and philosophical boundaries between loutishness, dishonesty and simply wanting to gain an advantage for your team?

With penalties, soccer etiquette – or lack of it – has been even clearer. You always contest a penalty award against you. You never dispute a penalty award in your favour. Cricketers may walk but footballers never, never talk. Yet Fowler did, or tried to. And then the action became surreal enough to give philosophers an entire seminar. So unprecedented was Fowler's honesty that no one knew how to handle it.

The ref who had blown his whistle and pointed to the spot was expecting the usual clamour of protests from the Arsenal players. But a protest from the player about to take the penalty? He hadn't been taught about that at referee school. The next day he said simply that he hadn't heard Fowler say anything. "He obviously didn't hear him waving then," noted one commentator acerbically. For Fowler's gesticulating itself spoke volumes.



See the sport on TV last night?

Last night on Channel 4 News a new report highlighted the barbaric sport of bear baiting in Pakistan.

It described how day after day, bears are dragged into a bloody arena to face pairs of cross-bred bull terriers. Each bear has had his teeth ripped out and claws blunted, leaving him at the mercy of the dogs' vicious teeth. The trainer won't let him be killed, but the bear doesn't know this. Over and over again, he is fighting for his life.

Over 2,000 bear-baitings take place each year in Pakistan, despite the fact that they are now banned by law.

Our Liberty campaign to a safe natural habitat, campaigns to enforce laws protecting bears, and fights ignorance with training and education.

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## obituaries / gazette

# Harold Melvin

Harold Melvin was one of the pioneers of the Philly Sound which now epitomises the mid-Seventies.

Under his guidance, the Blue Notes, a vocal group also boasting at the time the talents of Teddy Pendergrass, had several worldwide hits like "If You Don't Know Me By Now", "The Love I Lost", "Wake Up Everybody" and "Don't Leave Me This Way". But Melvin had been involved in music from a much earlier age and was still singing until a paralysing stroke put him in hospital a few months ago.

He was born in Philadelphia in 1941. The young Harold sang doo-wop on street corners with his childhood friends. They took up the name Harold Melvin & the Blue Notes and released the "If You Love Me" single on the local Josie label in 1956. The group played the local club scene, recording intermittently for small labels like Brooke, Val-U ("My Hero" in 1960), Landa ("Get Out" in 1964) and Uni ("This Time Will Be Different" in 1969). They also cut a few tracks for Chess (with Luther Dixon) and the TK label (with Henry Stone). The Blue Notes constantly changed line-up and were very much Melvin's group, though he didn't always appear on stage with them. Rather, he choreographed their routines as well as arranging and composing some of their material, though they mostly sung standards and show tunes when performing in supper clubs.

By 1970, Melvin was the only original member left, and Teddy Pendergrass, who had joined from the Cadillacs, had stepped out from behind the drumkit to

take up lead vocals in a line-up which also comprised Lloyd Parkes, Lawrence Brown and Bernard Wilson. His characteristic vocal stylings attracted the attention of Kenny Gamble and Leon Huff, two veteran songwriters and producers who had just set up the Philadelphia International operation and signed a distribution deal with Columbia. In 1972, Harold Melvin & the Blue Notes joined a roster which would soon include the O'Jays, Billy Paul and the Three Degrees and take over from Tamla Motown as the sound of mid-Seventies America.

After finding minor success with "I Miss You", they recorded "If You Don't Know Me By Now", a Gamble and Huff composition full of passion and yearning. It reached the American and British Top 10 in late 1972 and sold over two million copies. The song became a classic and was a popular choice for filmmakers trying to give a flavour of the period. It was revived by Simply Red in 1989.

The Philly Sound ruled discotheques the world over and, in 1973, Harold Melvin & the Blue Notes hit paydirt again with "The Love I Lost". Rich orchestrations and catchy choruses also ensured that "Satisfaction Guaranteed", "Where Are All My Friends" and "Bad Luck" were dance-floor fillers, while at the same time making pointed comments on the state of America. "Wake Up, Everybody", another political plea for peace and harmony penned by Gene McDowell, John Whitehead and Victor Castarphen and produced by Gamble and Huff, saw them back in the pop charts in 1976.

However Teddy Pendergrass,

who had the lion's share of vocal duties, was becoming uncomfortable with his position. People assumed he was Harold Melvin but he was just one of the Blue Notes and his financial rewards reflected that status. A billing adding "featuring Teddy Pendergrass" to the group moniker assuaged his worries for a while but, in 1977, he decided to go solo, scoring major hits in America with "The Whole Town's Laughing At Me" and "Close the Door", soul ballads of the late-night variety.

Before leaving the Blue Notes, Pendergrass had recorded "Don't Leave Me This Way" which battled it out with Thelma Houston's version in early 1977. Nine years later, the disco anthem was successfully brought up to date by the Communards, featuring Jimmy Somerville.

Having replaced Pendergrass with David Ebo, the Blue Notes left Philadelphia International for ABC. "Reaching for the World" was a R&B hit but the group's popularity was on the wane and, when various records on Source, MCA, Philly World flopped, they returned to the night-club and cabaret circuit which was their original home. Two years ago, they appeared in London at the Green Room of the Cafe Royal. By then, as all those years ago, Harold Melvin was the only original member. The hits were long gone, but some of the magic sparkle was still there.

Pierre Perrone

**Harold James Melvin, singer, composer and arranger: born 24 May 1941; married Ovelia McDaniels (five children); died Philadelphia 24 March 1997.**



If you don't know me by now: Melvin (front right) and the Blue Notes

Photograph: Gems / Redferns

## W. A. Camps

The election of William Anthony Camps to the mastership of Pembroke College, Cambridge, in 1970 was a fitting recognition of his quiet but all-pervasive influence at Pembroke over many years and crowned his career as the college he first entered as an undergraduate from Marborough in 1928.

The son of a surgeon, Tony Camps came to Pembroke as a classical scholar. He was elected to a fellowship in 1933 at the early age of 23, and six years later was appointed a university lecturer. During the Second World War, he was one of the brilliant minds recruited by the Civil Service for special duties with the Ministry of Economic Warfare, but apart from this interlude, his life and talents were devoted to Pembroke.

From 1947 till 1962, Camps was the college's Senior Tutor in Classics, and also responsible for admissions. His insistence on high academic



Camps: gentle self-mockery

standards ensured that Pembroke got its share of top-quality candidates. He also welcomed able postgraduate students, many of them from overseas, and in 1963 he was appropriately appointed tutor for advanced students.

His talents were appreciated in America, as attested by invitations to visiting professorships in Toronto – which bore fruit in his book on Homer (*An Introduction to Homer*, 1980) – North Carolina and Princeton. This exposure was also responsible for widening the field from which Pembroke drew prospective students.

Camps, Meredith Dewey, the Dean, and Bill Hutton, the Bursar, were a formidable and genial triumvirate who made dining at the Pembroke high table a stimulating and entertaining experience, while at the same time holding the reins of the college firmly, guiding it the way it should go.

When, in 1970, Camps came to the mastership of the college he loved it was not the easiest time in Cambridge – for example, student disturbances arose – but he was well endowed to weather the storm. A combination of wisdom, tact, steeliness and humour enabled him to see Pembroke through those difficult years and even to profit

it from them. His views were not always universally supported and he was certainly not afraid to maintain an uncompromising stand when he was convinced in himself that he was right (for instance, he did not support the admission of women to the college), but his devotion to the college and his concern for its welfare were so patent that no one could doubt the sincerity and integrity of his position.

Those who attended Camps's classical supervisions were a privileged band, for he commanded a demand for meticulous accuracy with a rare sense of style. His teaching was based on the authority of the original texts and they were his constant points of reference rather than other commentaries. But none of this prevented him from gentle self-mockery of the scholarly profession. He delighted in quoting dictionary definitions – not necessarily substantiated – such as the description of a

Homerian delicacy as "a mess of cheese and honey, a haggis", the latter to gain a rise from his pupils from the North.

His university lectures introduced these gifts to a wider audience, and, in keeping with his emphasis on the importance of the text, Camps wrote in a preface that "the poetry will be found in the poems themselves, and the reader is warned not to look for it in my part of the book, which is dry stuff".

He followed the further careers of his students with encouragement and advice (which sometimes went beyond mere persuasion), when their studies took them in different directions, and nothing gave him more delight than the appointment of one of his stars, Malcolm Lyons, as the Sir Thomas Adams Professor of Arabic at Cambridge in 1985.

In the 1960s he also edited a four-volume series of the works of the poet Propertius with typical detailed care. They were perhaps fairly described by the publisher as conservative, but in

fact this made them particularly useful to undergraduates and sixth-formers, though there was plenty of meat for the more advanced student. With his innate modesty, and in keeping with his emphasis on the importance of the text, Camps wrote in a preface that "the poetry will be found in the poems themselves, and the reader is warned not to look for it in my part of the book, which is dry stuff".

He followed the further careers of his students with encouragement and advice (which sometimes went beyond mere persuasion), when their studies took them in different directions, and nothing gave him more delight than the appointment of one of his stars, Malcolm Lyons, as the Sir Thomas Adams Professor of Arabic at Cambridge in 1985.

In the post-war years in Paris, he became acquainted, through a fortuitous confusion of mail deliveries based on the similarity of their names, with Miriam Camp, who had served with considerable distinction in the United States Foreign Service. They were married in 1953 and she was a splendid support to him at the Master's Lodge.

Tony and Miriam Camps retired to Little Abingdon, where friends were always sure of a warm welcome. But Tony's eyesight and general health began to fail and he was increasingly dependent on Miriam who devoted herself to his care and comfort. It was then one of life's ironies that she should predecease him. He took the loss hard but carried on bravely for a couple of years in a nursing home.

Robert Sanders

**William Anthony Camps, classical scholar: born 28 December 1910; Master of Pembroke College, Cambridge 1970-81; married 1953 Miriam Camp (died 1994); died Cambridge 17 January 1997.**

## Carlo Fassi

Carlo Fassi was one of the world's finest teachers of figure skating, who coached his pupils to an awesome number of world and Olympic championship titles. At the time of his sudden death in Lausanne he was working with a young American, Nicole Bobek, who had previously taken the bronze medal in 1995 and has potential to do even better.

Unlike some great trainers, Fassi himself had a notable championship record, first saw him in the 1949 world championships in Paris, when I rather condescendingly wrote in the *Skating World*: "Carlo Fassi of Italy was inclined to toe-poke (a common fault in compulsory figure skating) but is generally conceded to have

improved since last year's Olympics." He continued to do so, becoming European men's champion in 1953 and 1954.

Fassi's great opportunity came in 1961 when he was appointed chief instructor at the Broadmoor Ice Rink in the United States. Soon the world's most gifted skaters were travelling to Colorado Springs for tuition, among them Peggy Fleming of California. She was a perfectionist, a quiet, concentrated artist whose skating seemed to be a private communion between herself and the ice. The Fassis coached her to three world titles and the Olympic gold medal in 1968.

The Fassi teaching style owed its success to its flexibility. As he wrote in his 1980 textbook *Figure Skating With Carlo Fassi*: "A good teacher has to ad-

just his or her technique to the ability and personality of each skater. The best technique for one skater may not be the best for another." The value of this approach became particularly evident in 1976 when two Fassis pupils of greatly differing personalities each won world and Olympic gold medals. One was Dorothy Hamill, the other John Curry. Hamill later described how Fassi was "able to tune in to his students' moves. If we were just being lazy, he showed no mercy. But if we were truly upset, he would say kindly, 'Go on home.'"

John Curry, a skater of genius, wrote that, at first, "I did not like Mr Fassi and Mr Fassi did not like me". But very quickly, with the tactful aid of

Christa Fassi, they "got along together; in fact we soon enjoyed each other's company." Curry's final verdict was: "Mr Fassi is the best trainer in the world."

Four years later, Robin Cousins was also to benefit from Fassi's tuition. He won the 1980 European Championship as well as Olympic Gold. His fluent Italian English was vivid, often hilarious. He spoke several languages and on one occasion, suffering from jet-lag, he abseminatedly spoke to me in German while simultaneously conversing with someone else in Italian.

Another title came Fassi's way in 1990 when Jill Trenary of the United States became world champion. She is now the wife of the skater Christopher Dean.

During the 20 or so years when I was the *Times*' skating correspondent I met Fassi often.

I could always rely on him for an honest opinion. Some trainers are over-keen to boost their pupils' chances when talking to the press, but Carlo Fassi would not hesitate to tell me of their weaknesses as well as their strengths. His fluent Italian English was vivid, often hilarious. He spoke several languages and on one occasion, suffering from jet-lag, he abseminatedly spoke to me in German while simultaneously conversing with someone else in Italian.

Outside the ice rink, he had a passion for making models of Second World War warships. The last time we met, he asked me to find out the exact camouflage pattern of HMS *Wasp* and HMS *Prince of Wales*.

Dennis Bird

**Carlo Fassi, skating trainer: born Milan 20 December 1929; Italian Champion in singles 1943-54, in pairs 1942-51; European Men's Champion 1953, 1954; married 1960 Christa von Kuczko (two sons, one daughter); died Lausanne 20 March 1997.**

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## Births, Marriages & Deaths

### DEATHS

**MALI:** Dr Anne (née Davies), wife of Roger Mali and only daughter of Mary Davies, died 22 March 1997. She was born in Hambleton, North Yorkshire. She was a member of the Hambleton Hospital Trust. Funeral at Hambleton Parish Church Tuesday 1 April 1997 at 1.45pm. No flowers but donations if desired to Wessels Cancer Trust c/o Mr M.G. James, J. Edwards & Son Funeral Directors, 13 Hambleton Road, Waterlooville, PO7 7TU.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR GAZETTE BIRTHS, MARRIAGES & DEATHS** should be posted to the Gazette Editor, The Independent, 1 St. James's Square, London SW1A 1RT. Tel: 0171-293 2011 (0171-293 2010). Charges are £6.50 a line (VAT extra).

### ROYAL ENGAGEMENTS

**THE QUEEN AND THE DUCHESS OF EDINBURGH** will be present at the wedding of Prince Edward, Earl of Wessex, and Sophie Rhys-Jones, on Saturday 17th July 1998 at St George's Chapel, Windsor Castle. The Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh will be present at the wedding of Prince Edward, Earl of Wessex, and Sophie Rhys-Jones, on Saturday 17th July 1998 at St George's Chapel, Windsor Castle. The Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh will be present at the wedding of Prince Edward, Earl of Wessex, and Sophie Rhys-Jones, on Saturday 17th July 1998 at St George's Chapel, Windsor Castle.

**CHANGING OF THE GUARD** The Household Cavalry, Mounted Regiment, will be present at the State Opening of Parliament on Wednesday 18th June 1997.

### BIRTHDAYS

**MR DAVID AMESS MP, 45; MR Alan Atkins, actor, 63; MR Graham Barlow, cricketer, 47; MR Pierre Boulez, conductor and composer, 72; MR James Caan, actor, 58; Miss Kyung-who Chung violinist, 49; Lord Graham of Edmonton, former MP, 72; MR Michael Hague MP, Secretary of State for Wales, 36; Miss Jean Grahan Hall, former circuit judge, 80; Lord Hooson QC, 72; Air Marshal Sir Peter Horsey, chairman, Osprey Aviation, 76; Miss Elizabeth Jane Howard, novelist, 81; Sir George Jefferson, chairman, Videoton Corp, 76; Sir Bernard Katz, Nobel prizewinner and biophysicist, 86; Vice-Admiral Sir Ian McGeoch, 82; Sir Leslie Melville, economist, 95; Mr Leonard Minow, actor, 66; Mr Terence Pryce, chairman, Horticulture Research International, 63; Mr Harry Rabinowitz, conductor and composer, 81; Miss Diana Ross, singer, 53; Vice-Admiral Sir Jonathon Tod, Deputy Commander, Fleet, 58; Mr Amended Turner QC, former MEP, 68.**

### ANNIVERSARIES

**BIRTHS** Alfred Edward Housman, poet, 1859; "Chico" Leonard Marx, comedian, 1887; Temessem Williams (Thomas Laurier Williams), playwright, 1911; Dezsö Kiss, Hungarian composer, 1827; Cecil John Rhodes, financier and statesman, 1852; Sarah Bernhardt (Rudine Bernhardt), actress, 1823; David Lloyd

### STATE OPENING OF PARLIAMENT

Parliament will be opened by the Queen at 11.30am on Wednesday 14 May 1997.

Peers who will be present at the ceremony may apply for a place in the Chamber for their peers or husband, and for their eldest son or daughter above 14 years of age.

A limited number of seats in the Royal Gallery will be available for guests of Members of both Houses of Parliament. Members of the House of Commons should apply for these seats to the Speaker's Secretary, House of Commons, London SW1A 0AA.

Applications from Peers using the form issued to those eligible should be sent to the Secretary to the Lord Chamberlain, House of Lords, London SW1A OPW by Friday 11 April 1997.

## The Sons of Thunder come home to Westminster

### Arguments for Easter

**God has humbled His son but not His Church, it can sometimes seem. But the politics of this secular age may yet do that, argues the Rev John Kennedy.**

scripture separates them). For this Jesus is not a divine model, caught in the church and state politicking of Calabash and Pilate. Nor is he simply to be betrayed by his followers' cowardice and stupidity. Rather he is a man who chooses his own destiny.

Traditionally it has been common to regard Jesus' disciples as revealing themselves in this episode as engaging, craven buffoons. But there is something much more troubling in his followers' self-righteousness and their desire to possess him. Their arrogance contrasts sharply with Christ's obedience to the will of his Father. It is an arrogance which is all too common among many

modern Christians. The early writers of the Church, like Luke and Paul, insisted that Christ was not an exclusive property. He died for us, in our flawed humanity, and our belonging to him reflects no merit in us. So the followers of Christ are not to lord it over the rest of frail humanity. In practice, of course, Christians often give in to the temptation – even Paul himself had, on occasions, a touch of the aggressively self-justifying 'Son of Thunder' about him. Yet Paul's most daring insight is that Christ died to destroy the barrier between a chosen people and the rest of humankind.

The great buildings of Westminster this week is that the purposes of God are never simply achieved among his worshippers. Despite the arrogant illusion of the Churches, they have never been the sole proprietors of the divine purpose – a fact they are belatedly acknowledging by their recent increased enthusiasm to take part in the political process. Christ's death was never the exclusive property of Christians. It is God's gift to the whole world. We share a common humanity – never more so than when we are broken or desolate and have most real need of each other. That may be a Christian conviction, but it is one which God has made into a healing truth of universal power.

## James Stevens Cox

I first got to know James Stevens Cox when, many years ago, my family handled the sale of his hairdressing collection, writes Edward Maggs further to the obituary by Nicolas Barker, 18 March. This involved a vast array of hardware, including biguidos, curling tongs and hairpieces (sadly no merkins, although he was fully trained in their



# business & city

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BUSINESS &amp; CITY DEPUTY EDITOR: MICHAEL HARRISON

## Pilkington warns on the cost of German cuts

Michael Harrison

Pilkington, the St Helens-based glassmaker, yesterday dealt shareholders a fresh blow by warning that profits would be £55m lower this year because of the need for further redundancies and asset write-downs in Germany.

The warning sent Pilkington shares down a further 6 per cent to 121p compared with the 155p investors paid 18 months ago in a £303m rights issue.

Pilkington said that a collapse in flat glass prices since the start of the year and a slowdown in the German construction market meant that it would have to take the axe to its continental operations again for the second time in two years.

About 1,000 jobs are likely to be slashed in Germany as Pilkington cuts its processed glass capacity by 20 per cent. The cutbacks come on top of 1,900 job losses announced last year at a cost of £155m.

The fresh cutbacks means the group will incur restructuring costs approaching £20m in each of the next two years. It is also taking a further £40m charge to cover asset write-downs in the year just ending.

Pilkington said that as a result profits would be not less than £130m in the year to 31 March. That compares with forecasts of £250m last June and £190m as recently as last November.

Sir Nigel Rudd, Pilkington's chairman, said these results

represented a "setback" but he said its underlying strategy of cutting costs and rebuilding the business remained sound.

Finance director Andrew Robb said that most of the damage had been done by the sharp fall in glass prices since the end of 1996. This had been exacerbated by the strength of the pound against the mark, the building of new capacity in eastern Germany and weak German construction markets.

Float glass prices have slumped from DM6.30 a square metre in November 1995 to DM4.50 now and Pilkington is not budgeting on them rising above DM5 for the remainder of this year. Mr Robb said the exchange rate impact on the group would be between £10m and £20m this year if the pound stayed at current levels.

Germany is Pilkington's biggest single market, accounting for about £80m of its £2.8bn turnover. The group has four float glass lines in Germany and

extensive process glass operations making finished products for the building and automotive industries such as double-glazing and car windscreens.

But prices there have come under increased pressure because of the slump in construction orders and the move by rival glass maker Guardian to add to capacity by building a new line in eastern Germany.

Overcapacity is reckoned to be running at about 10 per cent. The latest cuts will not affect

Pilkington's float glass lines in Germany which are operating at about 90 per cent capacity and are still having to produce glass to be shipped over to the US where Pilkington's six float lines cannot cope with demand.

In the last four years Pilkington has taken £300m out of its costs but still has more to do. "It has been a constant battle to turn a collection of acquisitions into a fighting fit company," Mr Robb said.

**Comment, page 25**

Fed lifts key loan rate by a quarter point

David Osborne  
New York

The Federal Reserve last night raised its key interest rate by a quarter of a point – the first increase in two years – describing the move as a "prudent step" in the light of the persistent strength of the US domestic economy.

The widely expected move prompted a 75-point turnaround on Wall Street, with the Dow falling by almost 30 points to 6878, having earlier shown gains of 45 points.

The rate hike increases the key Fed funds rate to 5.5 per cent. The discount rate remained unchanged.

Earlier, Wall Street had been in sanguine mood as the meeting of the Fed's policy-making Open Markets Committee began. It was said to be ready to agree a small increase in short-term rates as a pre-emptive strike against any possible return of inflationary pressures in the still-expanding US economy.

The increase represents the first tightening of monetary conditions in the US since February 1995. The last time rates were moved in either direction was in January last year, when there was a cut.

Most economists had anticipated the quarter point increase in the federal funds rate – the rate that commercial banks charge each other for overnight loans – from 5.25 per cent.

Far from being dismayed by the prospect of a rate increase, most stock investors appeared already to be looking beyond it. The Dow Jones industrial average put on more than 100 points in trading on Monday and was again in positive territory during the hours yesterday before the Fed's announcement.

Any bigger shock for Wall Street from the meeting would have been a decision to do nothing. A few economists continued to suggest that the Fed could agree to wait one more month until its May meeting to assess further what inflationary risks may be lurking.

A decision to stand still would have, however, undermined the credibility of the Fed chairman Alan Greenspan, who has been hinting strongly in recent weeks that the time for a precautionary tightening had arrived. He recently voiced particular concern about tightening of the labour market and what that could do first to wage levels and then consumer prices.

Also weighing on Mr Greenspan was his concern about what he has called the "irrational exuberance" that has continued to drive up the stock market through the first weeks of this year.

The action by the Fed last night came despite no clear evidence of a return of inflationary pressures.

## ScotAm holders set for £1,400 windfalls

Clifford German

Policyholders in Scottish Amicable stand to gain windfalls worth £1,400 on average after the Prudential yesterday won the closely fought race for the life insurer.

The Pru's offer, valued at £2.15bn in total, consists of £850m worth of cash and assets plus a £1.3bn loan on commercial terms which will increase the investment performance of the ScotAm life fund.

Some 1.1 million with-profits policyholders will get an average of £550 in cash, plus a £430 bonus which will be added immediately to their policies. The balance will be added to their terminal bonuses.

Up to 400,000 non-profit policyholders get nothing because under ScotAm rules they are not members of the society.

Individual benefits depend on what policies are held, how much has been invested and how long the policies have been in force. Anyone who had applied to take out a with-profits policy before the close of business on Monday will get something.

The £600m cash element of the bid and about half the immediate bonuses, together worth £850m, will come from Prudential shareholders and policyholders. The balance of

| Scottish Amicable bid details                               |        |
|---|--------|
| Cash paid to 1.1m policyholders                             | £600m  |
| Immediate bonuses to policies                               | £470m  |
| Terminal bonus when policies mature                         | £500m  |
| Amount to be loaned by the Pru to the ScotAm 'capital fund' | £1.3bn |

The £1.3bn capital support allows ScotAm to free £720m (paid in annual and terminal bonuses) of the above sum from its life funds

the immediate bonus plus the terminal bonus together worth £720m, represents surplus value that will be squeezed out of ScotAm's own funds.

Exactly who gets what will depend on detailed work over the next six weeks to find a formula which reflects the amounts policyholders have contributed, investment performance and the length of time policies have been held.

A circular giving details will be sent out to policyholders some time in May and a vote will be held on the proposals in June. The decision then has to go before the Scottish courts, which could take two or three months, so it may be October before the business is transferred and the bonuses are paid.

Other bidders may also be stalking the likely targets, which include Friends Provident, Scottish Provident and Scottish Life.

The Prudential's trump card, according to Roy Nicolson,

from Australian Mutual Provident and Abbey National will be revealed in the circular, but will not be released earlier unless the losers themselves decide to reveal them.

Yesterday Abbey National expressed disappointment about the bid outcome, but stressed its own plans to concentrate on rapid organic growth.

Prudential's chief executive, Sir Peter Davis, stressed the complementary nature of the two businesses, with the Pru's strength in with-profit bonds and annuities and the big networks of independent financial advisers matched by ScotAm's strength in mortgage endowments, personal pensions, unit-linked policies, long-term care and medium sized independent financial advisers (IFAs).

The combined business will have over 7 million policyholders, £105bn of funds under

management, and over £800m worth of new business in 1996. The acquisition will slightly dilute the Pru's earnings per share in 1998, finance director Jonathan Bloomer admitted, but the extra business confirms the Prudential as market leader in UK fund management and puts it hard on the

heels of Standard Life, the UK market leader in business sold through IFAs. The Prudential's shares rose 15.5p to 555.5p.

**Comment, page 25**

## Record £1bn property sale rocks HK

Stephen Vines  
Hong Kong

at Salomon Brothers and long-time property specialist in Hong Kong.

The sale was made at a government land auction for an unusually large 275,472 sq ft site at the eastern tip of Hong Kong island which is neither fashionable nor known as a location for a world record for a site of this kind.

Analysts agreed that the record-breaking purchase represented a considerable vote of confidence in the colony's property market just three months ahead of the return to Chinese sovereignty.

Developers have a very robust confidence in the outlook for the residential market," said Michael Green a director

in the residential market alone.

In the residential market alone

prices rose by an average of 30

per cent last year. This mirrored the rise in share prices, which is hardly surprising because property values account for the bulk of assets held by quoted companies and underpin the central stock market.

Although the commercial property market is less buoyant than the residential market, a survey by locally based CY Leung & Co shows that Hong Kong ranks as only second to Tokyo in terms of costs for setting up offices. In Tokyo the average cost last year was \$100 per square foot per month; in Hong Kong the average is \$80.

Last year the Peking-controlled Citic Pacific set another record by paying HK\$3.35bn to buy reclaimed land near the centre of town to build a grade A office tower.

Construction of the new building is at an advanced stage and letting has already begun.

The developers are expected to make a good return despite the fact that yields on office properties are declining.

The property market has shrugged off uncertainties about the return to Chinese rule to such an extent that the government has set up yet another task force to examine ways of eliminating property speculation.

Large queues form outside the doors of property developers launching new apartments

and money can be made by simply selling the right to buy units in new developments.

Nevertheless most analysts predict that price rises in the current year will not match those of the past year. The Hang Seng Bank, a unit of HSBC Holdings, expects mid-range residential prices to rise by no more than 15 per cent.

The main uncertainty is not political factors but interest rate movements. Yesterday's sale came ahead of an anticipated rise in United States interest rates which is likely to be followed by a rate rise in Hong Kong where the local currency is tied to the greenback at a fixed rate.

The action by the Fed last night came despite no clear evidence of a return of inflationary pressures.

**Comment, page 25**

## Morrison teams up with Midland

Nigel Cope

William Morrison, the Bradford-based supermarket group, has become the latest food retailer to launch a banking operation.

It has teamed up with Midland Bank to offer what it claims will be the first "full service" bank in the aisles of a supermarket. It follows similar moves into financial services by Tesco, Sainsbury and Safeway.

The first "Midlands at Morrison's" branch will open at the group's Five Lanes store in Bradford in May. Further branches will be opened in the next few months and a new savings account will be introduced later in the year.

The in-store banks will be staffed by Midland workers and Morrison's staff can also use a direct telephone link to the bank's national call centre as well as cash and deposit machines.

Morrison's hinted at a possible move into financial services when it announced its full-year results last week. It is also creating 2,250 extra jobs as it opens its first stores in the South next year.

The supermarket group is the latest to join the rush into financial services which was

started by Tesco when it launched its ClubCard Plus deposit account last year.

Since then Safeway has teamed up with Abbey National and Sainsbury's has formed a joint venture to open a fully fledged Sainsbury's bank. Some banking analysts have questioned the wisdom of supermarkets moving into financial services saying they risk "brand contamination" if mistakes are made.

However, the supermarket feel they can use their brands across a range of services. Some analysts say a price war on savings accounts is possible as banks and building societies may seek to match the supermarket rates.

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Shirt-sleeved workers indulged in contortions on the mat in Broadgate, the City of London, yesterday as MB Games' Twister-thon celebrated the 30th anniversary of the game. Photograph: Peter Macdiarmid

## BZW dismisses reports of error

John Willcock

BZW, the investment banking arm of Barclays Bank, moved swiftly to play down news of a £1.5m loss on a 1996 currency trade which emerged in press reports yesterday.

The bank dismissed suggestions there had been a mispricing error, saying that it was merely an ordinary deal which went wrong. Sources within BZW insist that the people involved in the July dollar-market deal were within their dealing

limits, and that when managers discovered that "a rapid movement in the currency markets" was moving against the position they acted "within minutes".

While the emergence of such a loss has clear resonances with the £7m charge NatWest markets was recently forced to make against a mispricing error on options trades, the markets took a relaxed view of the affair.

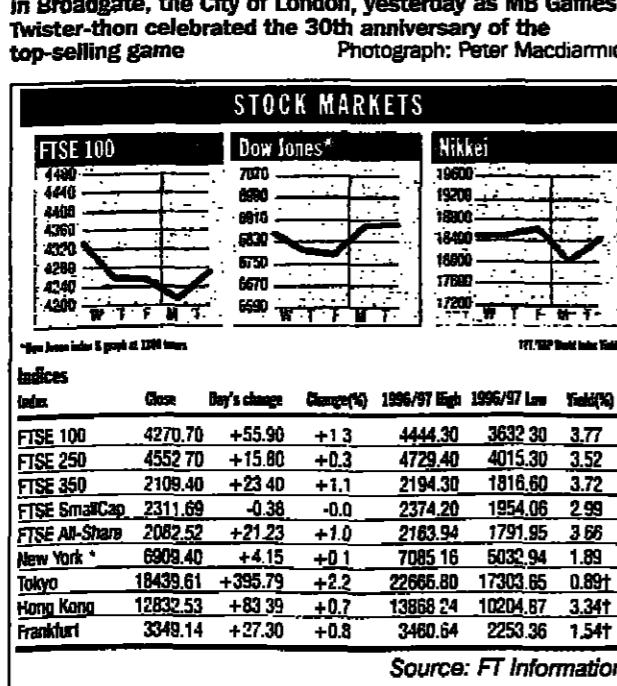
Bank stocks were being marked sharply up yesterday following a "buy" note from James Capel, and Barclays

shares rose 26p to 1016.5p. BZW confirmed that the position involved in the loss was being managed by Paul Ellis and Paul Doust, both of whom subsequently left the bank last year. BZW says their departures were by mutual consent. The bank refused to comment on whether their leaving was linked to the loss, saying: "We never comment on that – it's an unreasonable thing to do."

Such is the sensitivity of investment banks, particularly British ones, following the NatWest Markets mis-pricing scandal, that BZW felt obliged to issue an official statement yesterday. It said: "In July of last year, senior management in BZW's markets division and its independent risk management function took action to hedge a trading position which had been adversely affected by an unanticipated and rapid movement in the currency markets."

The statement said the loss was not a material one as far as the annual results were concerned.

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COMMENT

To deny policyholders large handouts in cash and bonuses simply because you want to continue with your own strategy is no longer an option'

## Writing is on the wall for mutual insurers

If ever a demonstration were needed of the relative firepower between different UK insurers, the takeover of Scottish Amicable by Prudential provides it.

After all, here was a company, slightly tarnished but still in reasonable health, whose actuaries spent the best part of two years devising a complicated two-part flotation strategy. Yet within two weeks of ScotAm executives unveiling their plans, along came the Pru and blew them out of the water.

In the end, the big guns won. But there is more to this tale than one company taking advantage of the relative weakness of another. Prudential's successful bid marks a new stage in the way life companies are valued – most importantly by their own policyholders.

Until now, valuations placed on mutual insurers involved a relatively small amount of money – in some cases just tens of millions of pounds – to be paid as "goodwill" for taking over the company.

In addition, the buyer would have to pay a sum based on a proportion of assumed future profits generated from that firm's life fund. The total cost of the purchase, as many disappointed Clerical Medical members discovered after their takeover by the Halifax last year, certainly did not involve huge bonuses for them.

Scottish Amicable has changed all that. In future, policyholders asked by their life companies to approve a stock market flotation or a takeover will want to know whether the pro-

posal unlocks cash from their life fund. As Prudential's offer has done, and how much.

They will also demand far higher "goodwill" offering than ScotAm's hapless executives ever assumed they were likely to receive for their firm. The old argument that life company takeovers will not result in big payouts to members no longer holds true. Nor does the suggestion that mutuals can simply ignore potential bidders, as ScotAm's executives did with an initial Prudential approach last year. That may have been possible before Prudential's cleverly structured deal.

But to deny policyholders large handouts in cash and bonuses simply because you want to continue with your own strategy is no longer an option as NPL, Scottish Life, Friends Provident, Scottish Provident and half a dozen others may shortly discover.

### Sir John's departure is bad timing

It is a tricky job being the chairman of a German-owned investment bank these days. First Simon Robertson parted company with Kleinwort Benson after what were politely termed strategic differences with his new bosses at Dresdner Bank. Now Sir John Craven is retiring finally from the top job at Deutsche Morgan Grenfell.

There, however, the similarities begin to wane. Mr Robertson paid the price for a

straight falling-out with his new owners. Sir John, by contrast, proved to be the great survivor at Morgan Grenfell, spending six and a half years on the management board of its parent Deutsche Bank before stepping down last May.

He insists that his departure has nothing to do either with the Peter Young scandal, or "that wretched Horlick woman" or, for that matter, his decision to take on the chairmanship of Lourho from today.

Those who do not subscribe to the coincidence theory of corporate reshuffles may suspect otherwise. Sir John's retirement comes a matter of days before Imro slaps a £1m fine on Deutsche Morgan Grenfell Asset Management over the Young affair. The Lourho appointment also raised an eyebrows or two since Morgan Grenfell also happens to be the company's banker.

Against that, Sir John was as far removed from both the Young and the Horlick affair as it is possible to be while still working for the same bank. He may not have liked either episode but he gave up active involvement in the management of Morgan Grenfell almost a year ago. The role of chairman was largely titular and in any case Sir John was rarely about the place. In the last couple of weeks he has spent one day in London and the rest of the time in South Africa, Indonesia, Australia and Switzerland prospecting for new business.

Nevertheless, the timing of his departure is unfortunate. He arrived at Morgan Gren-

fell in the immediate aftermath of the Guinness affair and he leaves with the bank once again tinged by scandal. He is not, however, severing links altogether with Deutsche Bank but will join the great and the good who sit on its advisory board – which is not to be confused with its supervisory board or its management board. Given the Horlicks that Deutsche has made over the aborted Thyssen bid, it may be in need of some advice.

### The sound of breaking glass

The product may be dull but boy the same cannot be said for life as a manager, or a shareholder for that matter, in Pilkington. Even before yesterday's nasty bit of news from Germany, the shares were standing at a 17 per cent discount to the price they went for in the 1995 rights issue. The sound of breaking glass was then crashing another 6 per cent to a fresh low.

Quite how it is possibly to stumble from one huge disappointment to the next when dealing in something as prosaic as glass will make a great management textbook one of these days. Two years ago it was a whopping £375m goodwill write-off to cover Pilkington's ill-fated adventure into contact lenses that did the damage. Last year it was the turn of restructuring charges in the UK and Europe to leave a £155m hole. This year, the

collapse in float glass prices and the disintegration of the German building market will leave Pilks nursing another £55m of exceptional charges.

If it is any consolation, at least the trend is in the right direction. At this rate Sir Nigel Rudd may even have a clear set of results to parade come the next millennium, if he chooses to stay that long.

The irony is that the company has been doing many of the things that it ought to be doing. It may still have the air of paternalism that clings to great British industrial institutions. But in fact the new management in the shape of chief executive Roger Leverton has been there for nearly five years. It has cut capacity where it needed to be cut and bought businesses when it made sense to do so. The £300m splashed out on the Italian automotive glass maker SIV and Interpane in Scandinavia has given Pilks a big enough share of the European glass market to punch its weight with the big carmakers.

Unfortunately, it is difficult to legislate for the kind of collapse in prices that has ravaged the European glass market, nor for the determination of a competitor to add to the fun by building some unwanted capacity. Pilks' problem is that it is running to stand still. As fast as it cuts capacity more fat appears. It begins to make you wonder whether there will ever be serious money to be made from selling glass into a mature market like Europe.

## Manufacturers miss out on Britain's boom

Diane Coyle  
and Chris Hughes

The contrast between the fortunes of manufacturing industry and services could not have been revealed more starkly than by new figures on investment yesterday.

Manufacturing investment fell by 8 per cent in the year to the final quarter of 1996, with the weakness concentrated in the core engineering industries. The level of investment in manufacturing last year was 15 per cent lower than in 1979.

The Labour Party pounced on the figures to counter the Government's new election slogan that "Britain is booming". Gordon Brown, shadow chancellor, said: "What we are essentially seeing is the reduction in capacity because of the failure to invest in manufacturing, that is exactly the problem that has bedevilled us in every previous recovery."

At the same time, however, investment in services and construction has increased sharply. In services, capital expenditure climbed 5 per cent in the latest quarter to a level 10 per cent higher than a year earlier. This matches its record in 1989, at the height of the last boom.

The gap between manufacturing and services is reflected in diverging regional economic performance, according to consultancy Business Strategies

Ltd (BSL). Growth in services helped make London the fastest growing part of the country in 1996 despite a drop in manufacturing output, followed by the North, and Yorkshire and Humberside.

Business services such as accountancy, computer services and consultancy are performing especially well, according to BSL's latest regional report.

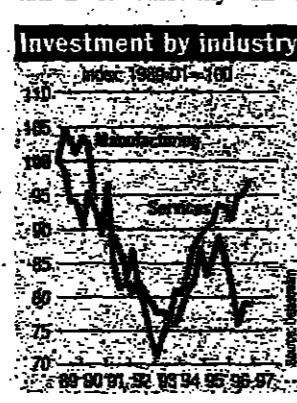
Research director Neil Blake said: "This will bring the capital's growth this year close to the peak of 4.6 per cent it achieved in the boom year of 1986."

Some analysts were sceptical about yesterday's official figures on manufacturing investment because they paint a picture so much weaker than business surveys would suggest.

Kevin Dartington at Hoare Govett said under-recording of manufacturers' capital spending could explain why GDP measured as the sum of different kinds of expenditure had fallen behind the measure based on output.

Economists also disagreed over how much manufacturing matters. Adam Cole at brokers James Capel said there was a real danger that weakness in manufacturing would undermine the balance of payments.

On the other hand, David Hillier at BZW said it was sensible for the economy to focus on services. "We can't compete in manufacturing with tiger economies paying £2 an hour."



downward path, robust growth this year is expected to stoke up problems for the future years.

Interest rates would go up later this year, no matter who won the election. She warned that a slowdown would follow in 1998 and the year after.

New City experts believe Kenneth Clarke will hit the bullet and raise interest rates after his 10 April meeting with the Governor of the Bank of England.

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Kevin Dartington at Hoare Govett

## business

# Fresh interest in troubled retailer

**Nigel Cope**  
City Correspondent

Country Casuals, the troubled womenwear retailer, faced fresh controversy yesterday when it emerged that its chief executive Mark Bunce is in talks which may lead to an offer for the company.

It is the second time in just 18 months that the retailer has been the subject of takeover interest from one of its directors. John Shannon, the group's former chief executive failed in a bitter £27m takeover battle for the company just 18 months ago.

His offer was valued at 40p per share. Last night Country

Casuals shares closed up 7.5p at 102.5p.

Mark Bunce and his wife Christina who is commercial director, led a management buy-out of Country Casuals from Coats Viyella in 1989. They still retain 10 per cent of the stock but the proposed level of their offer is not yet known.

Their main interest would be the core Country Casuals chain, which is profitable. The group is already in the process of selling its loss-making Elvi division, which sells clothes for larger women, and its Lerose manufacturing business.

The company said yesterday that in the interests of max-

imising shareholder value it would allow Mr Bunce to pursue his offer "for a limited period of time".

However, neither Mr Bunce, nor his wife will take part in the appraisal of any offers for Elvi or Lerose, nor any offer for the company as a whole.

Country Casuals' finance director, Andrew Mills-Baker, said that although no offer from Mr Bunce had yet materialised he assumed one would be forthcoming.

He admitted that to have two approaches from past or current chief executives in two years was unusual. Mr Bunce was not in the office yesterday. Commenting on a profits

warning last November, Mr Bunce said: "We've got a core business (Country Casuals) that made profits of £3.5m last year. The problems is we have a start-up business (Elvi) and a manufacturing division that are dragging that down at the moment."

Mr Bunce bought 75,000 shares at 68p following the warning.

Country Casuals is due to report its full year results on Thursday, with pre-tax profits of just £100,000 expected. Investors will be looking for some reassurance on the performance of the company, which has issued two profits warnings in the last four months.

The Elvi stores and the Lerose business are expected to have lost £1.6m and £1.1m respectively.

Country Casuals was founded in 1973. Following the 1989 buy-out, John Shannon together with Mr and Mrs Bunce, took the company on to the stock market in 1992, when its shares were priced at 130p per share. They reached 180p in January 1993 but have been below the issue price since last autumn.

John Shannon's hostile bid was a bitter affair led through his vehicle Ciro Holdings. He had resigned in September 1994 after a dispute over his contract.

**IN BRIEF**

• John Castle, former managing director at the building materials group Marley, is to become the new chief executive of Taylor Woodrow, the construction group, when Tony Palmer retires in May. Mr Castle's appointment came as Taylor Woodrow posted a 45 per cent increase in 1996 pre-tax profits to £66.8m. Sir Colin Parson, the chairman, said housing markets in Canada, the US and the UK were all showing positive signs.

• Singer & Friedlander, the medium sized London merchant bank, enjoyed a rise in pre-tax profit last year of 57 per cent to £54.8m, boosted by fees from stockbroking and investment management and a one-time gain from an asset sale. Stripping out the £10.5m exceptional gain from the sale of Singer's stake in the People Phone Company still left it with profits up 22 per cent to £41.7m. Shares of Singer fell 10.5p to 141p. Chief Executive John Hodson said the company would ideally like to buy something that would enhance its fund management business, at the right price. Funds under management rose 58 per cent to £6.0bn and earnings per share rose 74 per cent to 17.96p including the exceptional profit. Mr Hodson concluded that "so long as the markets stay active we continue to prosper."

• Rea Brothers, the financial services group which specialises in investment trusts, exceeded expectations with a rise in pre-tax profit last year of 35 per cent to £1.8m. Earnings per share rose 20 per cent to 2.5p and the dividend remained the same. Roger Parsons, managing director, said funds under management had risen by 36 per cent to £950m and customer deposits by 20 per cent to £250m. Roughly half the group's business consists of the Finsbury Asset Management arm, which manages eight investment trusts, and which launched a £55m hedge fund last year. The group also has over 1,000 private clients. Mr Parsons said it planned new fund management launches and an increased private client portfolio.

• Cattles, the door-to-door consumer credit company, enjoyed a bumper 1996 with pre-tax profits up 20 per cent to £53.9m. Edward Cran, chief executive, said earnings per share rose 21 per cent to 17p and the final dividend went up 20 per cent to 3.5p, making 8.5p for the year. Cattles is expanding its network of Welcome offices, which provide banking facilities to those normally ignored by the high street banks. Welcome opened 11 branches last year, making 61 in all, and aims to open another 15 this year. "While the banks are looking for better-off customers, we can see a huge market emerging for us," said Mr Cran. The Shopacheck network of consumer credit agents is also set to expand, having 135 offices already.

• Severe problems at Hunting's aviation interiors business were blamed for a slump in profit last year to £6.8m from £31.1m, on sales of £1.28bn (£1.13bn). Write-offs totalled over £40m in the first half, mainly to cover the cost and losses linked to a contract supplying interiors to the Dash-8 aircraft for De Havilland of Canada. Hunting, famous for its "runway-buster" bombs, plans to sell its non-core businesses, notably the aviation division, as soon as possible to focus on its oil activities and reduce gearing.

| Company Results  |                |                 |                 |                |
|--|----------------|-----------------|-----------------|----------------|
|  | Turnover £     | Pre-tax £       | EPS             | Dividend       |
| Ash & Lacy (F)   | 147m (104m)    | 10.1m (5.32m)   | 19.14p (12.24p) | 7.2p (6.7p)    |
| William Baker (F)  | 667m (671m)    | 6.0m (10.3m)    | 6.7p (5.4p)     | 9.35p (9.35p)  |
| Bardon Group (F)   | 318m (341m)    | 23.4m (24.3m)   | 2.49 (2.5p)     | 20 (29)        |
| Booker (F)   | 4.44m (4.23bn) | 13.0m (82.8m)   | 4.7p (2.28p)    | 23.8p (23.1p)  |
| Cattles (F)  | 333m (294m)    | 33.9m (28.2m)   | 17.14p (14p)    | 8.3p (6.5p)    |
| Hemleys (F)  | 30.5m (30.1m)  | 8.88m (6.27m)   | 19.3p (19.3p)   | 5p (8.1p)      |
| Heudek Headline (F)  | 9.28m (9.88m)  | 6.6m (5.7m)     | 3.3m (3.13m)    | 8.5p (6.5p)    |
| Hunting (F)  | 1.28m (1.23bn) | 6.2m (3.11m)    | -15.4p (12.1p)  | 5p             |
| Independent Radio (*)  | 2.35m (+)      | 2.95m (+)       | 25.7p (+)       | (+)            |
| Alfred McAlpine (F)  | 994m (757m)    | 9.4m (3.5m)     | 10.6p (3.2p)    | 7p (7p)        |
| Mackellar Group (F)  | 157m (159m)    | 2.0m (2.12m)    | 11.8p (12.03p)  | 4.05p (3.9p)   |
| P&O (F)  | 7.95m (7.57m)  | 33.8m (32.9m)   | 40.1p (37.8p)   | 30.5p (30.5p)  |
| Rutland Trust (F)  | 116m (105m)    | 12.2m (12.6m)   | 3.91p (3.49p)   | 1.4p (1.2p)    |
| Scholl (F)   | 212m (207m)    | -1.1m (17.1m)   | 28.2p (13p)     | 7.7p (7p)      |
| SIS (F)  | 55.7m (52.9m)  | 30.0m (23.1m)   | 16.1p (20.3p)   | 7.2p           |
| Singer & Friedlander (F)   | (-)            | 5.4m (3.49m)    | 17.8p (10.35p)  | 4.65p (4p)     |
| SkypePhone (F)   | 11.1m (7.59m)  | -11.1m (-8.75m) | 6.3p (-13.80p)  | (-)            |
| Taylor Woodrow (F)   | 3.57m (3.14m)  | 156.4m (+)      | 13.4p (+)       | 10.15p (8.12p) |
| Vernon Group (F)   | 106m (92.2m)   | 13.6m (8.11m)   | 13.7p (17.5p)   | 5.3p (+)       |
| West Group (F)   | 106m (92.2m)   | 13.6m (8.11m)   | 13.7p (17.5p)   | 5.3p (+)       |
| (F) Final (I) - Intern (I) - current figs 17 mers; comparatives 12 mers; (*) - 16 mers |                |                 |                 |                |

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## Littlewoods draws up shortlist for stores bids

**Nigel Cope**  
City Correspondent

Littlewoods has identified a shortlist of around 10 potential bidders for its high street stores which were put up for sale earlier this month.

The shortlist is thought to include supermarket groups, high street retailers and property companies as well as venture capital groups.

BZW, which is handling the sale on Littlewoods behalf, is expected to narrow the field down to four or five firm bidders in the next few weeks. They will then be offered more detailed information on the business. The initial sales memorandum were only sent out last week.

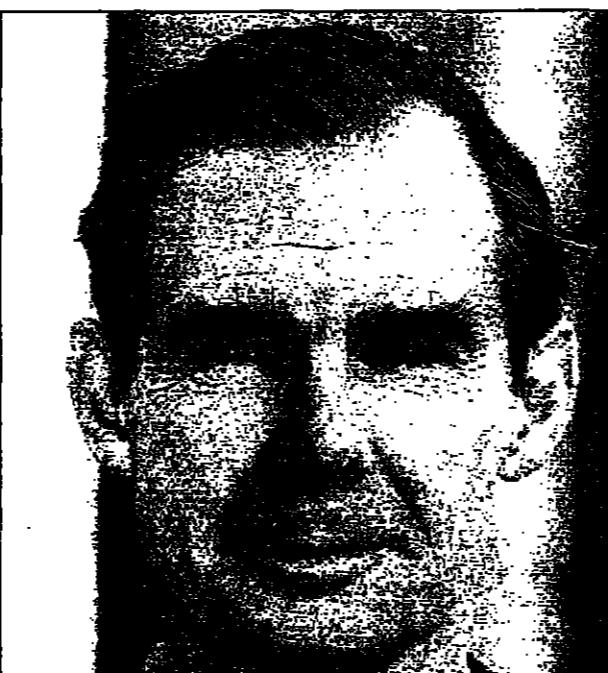
Though chief executive James Ross is keen to sell the 135 stores in one block, City analysts doubt that any bidder will be interested in all the stores at the rumoured price tag of around £500m. However, it is understood that various consortia are forming in which a lead bidder would buy the whole chain and then sell off or close the stores it does not want.

BZW is confident that the opportunity to buy the best stores combined with the threat of a rival taking them will be sufficient to secure a good price.

Retailers tipped to be interested in Littlewoods include Kingfisher, Tesco, Asda, Next and C&A. However, Tesco now has its hands full with last week's £630m purchase of 109 supermarkets in Ireland.

BARRY DALE, the former Littlewoods chief executive who made a £1.1m bid for the group in 1995, says he is not interested in making an approach at the current price. His bid last year exploited the nature of the Littlewoods portfolio make it a valuable asset. It says that only half of the 7 million square feet of space is configured as retail space. The rest is devoted to warehousing or other non-profit making activities.

Few believe any bidder would be interested in continuing to trade the stores under the Littlewoods name. The stores, which have been under-invested for some time, made operating profits of just £33.3m on sales of £479m last year.



James Ross: The Littlewoods chief executive is keen to sell the group's 135 high street stores as one block

since he brought Chelsfield to the market three years ago. As well as the big London development sites, Chelsfield is the owner of the giant Merry Hill shopping centre in the West Midlands. The Wentworth gold course and a number of separate components capable of showing good returns. After a rise in profit before tax from £10.6m to £14.4m, a dividend of 3p was recommended, up from 2.75p.

Mr Bernerd denied that Chelsfield had missed an opportunity to buy property developer Imry from Barclays, saying the subsequent decision that figure understated Chelsfield's true value by a sizeable margin because of the company's policy of booking its developments at cost. The 37-acre White City retail and leisure scheme, in the books at £20m, is estimated by analysts to be worth as much as £150m.

Mr Bernerd described Chelsfield's performance last year as

"the strongest recorded by the group to date". He said it had continued its focus on core central London developments and large retail based schemes and had a number of separate components capable of showing good returns. After a rise in profit before tax from £10.6m to £14.4m, a dividend of 3p was recommended, up from 2.75p.

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altogether as "none of that stuff applies to the bright new technologies."

ALAN HUNTER, a stockbroker who celebrated his 65th birthday last Saturday, is having no fewer than three celebrations to mark his retirement from Williams de Broe. Well, if you've spent 31 years working in the City you

might as well go out in style. Last Friday Alan, who runs the nominee side of things, took colleagues out for a drink at Corney & Barrow in Broadgate. The bar allows customers celebrating their birthday a discount on a bottle of champers, so Alan got 65 per cent off for magnum for his mates.

Then on Monday he held a thrash for mostly retired City colleagues and friends at the Mosaic Bar in the Long Room of the Throgmorton Restaurant, opposite the Stock Exchange. Finally, tonight Williams de Broe will hold a formal leaving do.

Then Alan's off travelling for six weeks to "Montana and other far-off places", a colleague of his tells me. When he returns it won't be cultivating the roses. Alan

and his wife run a market stall in north London, mainly selling stationery.

Labour's imminent election landslide may be threatened by that most dreaded of political phenomena - apathy. According to The Lawyer magazine this week, "An ambitious Labour Party initiative to raise £100,000 from a series of seminars for City lawyers featuring members of its front bench had to be cancelled due to lack of interest."

Oh dear. Perhaps Labour's much-vaunted prawn cocktail offensive in the City to persuade business that Labour really has changed hasn't worked after all.

The proposed shindig was launched last December by the Society of Labour

Lawyers and a list of speakers drawn up, including Robin Cook, shadow foreign secretary, and Alastair Darling, shadow chief secretary to the Treasury.

Perhaps City lawyers simply weren't too thrilled by the prospect of being dined at by Messrs Cook and Darling.

As Labour points out, this month featuring around 100 City lawyers paying £500 was a big success. That dinner, however, started those noted crowd pullers Tony Blair and Cherie Booth QC.

Kenny Dalglish the

Newcastle United manager

and Jim Kerr, singer with Simple Minds, are helping to form a new management company based in Glasgow which aims to stop young sportspeople and musicians falling foul of the pitfalls of business.

The stars are joining

RONNIE LUDWIG, managing partner of the Edinburgh office of accountancy firm Moore Rowland, to launch the Catherine Robertson Organisation.

The company will advise

youngsters about contracts,

sponsorship, tax and financial planning.

It will be run by

Catherine Robertson, a football agent who believes there are similarities between the worlds of sport and music.

John Willcock

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# market report / shares

## Data Bank

## Footsie does a smart about-turn in the wake of Dow

## Taking Stock

**FTSE 250**  
152.4  
**FTSE 100**  
140.4  
**Share Volume**  
97.4m shares  
**Stock Turnaround**  
Gulf 1.1  
Dow 0.1

## Share spotlight



The election sell-off came to an abrupt end. After six days of a strong rally with Footsie surging 55.9 points to 4,270.7.

New York provided the lifeline. Although interest rates were expected to move higher, a sudden rush of US buying translated into a more confident atmosphere in the stock market which was prepared to, at least for the time being, ignore the implications of dearer money.

Even the election and related rumblings were forgotten. However, Footsie is still more than 150 points below the level ruling when John Major announced polling day.

Financials led the recovery. HSBC appeared to turn positive on a collection of money shares including Lloyds TSB, up 28.5p to 482.5.

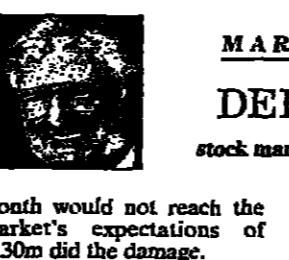
The Prudential Corporation's annexation of Scottish Amicable left the market pon-

dering about the intentions of the thwarted bidders, particularly Abbey National, another HSBC up, up 21p to 735.5p. The Prudential rose 15.5p to 555.5p.

Other financials seen in many quarters as the crucial indicator of the market's behaviour, moved ahead. Commercial Union, for example, threw off worries about any tobacco liability, jumping 31.5p to 671.5p.

Centrica, the British Gas distribution arm, added 3.5p to 62.5p as SBC Warburg took the shares to its corporate heart. It suggested the group, dubbed eccentrica in some quarters, had a short-term share expectancy of 70p with 90p a medium-term target. BG, the other half of the gas equation, rose 2p to 160.5p.

Pilkington, the glass maker, had yet another sheltering day, falling 7.5p to 121p, lowest for four years. A warning profits for the year ending this



## MARKET REPORT

## DEREK PAIN

stock market reporter of the year

month would not reach the market's expectations of 18.5p to 17.5p as the planned German steel takeover failed to materialise with Krupp withdrawing its hostile bid for rival Thyssen. Now the hope is the two will manage a peaceful merger. In the short term, however, the break-down means European steel prices will not enjoy the benefit of reduced German competition.

Drugs had an eventful day. Shield Diagnostic added 35p to 72.5p and Scotia recovered 40p to 419p following a presentation for its Foscanc cancer drug. Polymatec Pharmaceuticals

put on 18.5p to 17.5p reflecting a collaboration with Oxford Molecular. Against such a background Cambridge Antibody placed at 500p, had little difficulty romping to 610p.

Associated British Foods, with the £360m Irish sale proceeds burning a hole in its corporate pocket, rose 26p to 539p as the market pondered its likely move. Tate & Lyle, firm at 434.5p, is one target in the frame.

The buoyant atmosphere was good for Railtrack, up 21p to 467p, and RAT Industries put on another 19p to 528p on demerger hopes and the growing belief some of its tobacco

liabilities could be ringfenced. Oriel, the insurance broker, ended at a 12-month low, off 9p to 107.5p. It has been in takeover talks since February of last year. These leisurely proceedings have finally established it is "unlikely" that a satisfactory offer will appear.

Pathfinder Properties, a BES company, made its AIM debut through an introduction at 17.5p.

Symonds, the once high-flying electronic group, blew a fuse, falling 20.5p to 38.5p after admitting figures will not match market expectations.

Ashurst Technology, with Canadian metal interests, rose 7.5p to 60p; the price touched 95p last month. The company may have hit a rich gold seam in the Ukraine. The current year could produce £7.5m. The group's rental success is attracting admiring glances and could soon produce a bid. GE Capital, the US giant, is thought to be interested and other predators lurk. The shares rose 4p to 120.5p.

Appointments recruitment business which is led by Lord Saatchi, edged ahead 1p to 91p. An institutional investor has picked up 500,000 shares at 90p, most coming from Webmedia, a company in which Megalomedia has an 18.9 per cent interest.

The media group is known

to be on the look-out for acquisitions. It acquired its stake in Webmedia in August.

Hay and Robertson, the merchandiser, continued to recover, reaching 153.5p, up 10p. Cash Converters, an Australian-based group specialising in franchised second-hand shops, added 2.5p to 21p. The shares have been weak. Floating at 27p last year, the company said it was unaware of any trading reason for the share retreat and blamed comments by an Australian MP. It said "clean" profits would not vary by more than 15 per cent from last year's A\$6.5m.

Silver Shield, a windscreens replacement group, is still near to completing a large acquisition and in the meantime is busy buying in its franchisees. It hopes eventually to own all its outlets. Trading progress has been slower than chairman Neil McClure, ex-IURS, had expected. Interim profits come out at \$81,000 and, perhaps, \$150,000 is likely for the year. The shares firms to 3.75p.

Interest is developing in TLS, the vehicle rental company. Figures today should be encouraging, say 25.8m up from 24.2m. The current year could produce £7.5m. The group's rental success is attracting admiring glances and could soon produce a bid. GE Capital, the US giant, is thought to be interested and other predators lurk. The shares rose 4p to 120.5p.

## Share Price Data

Prices are sterling except where stated. The yield is last year's dividend, grossed up by 20 per cent, as a percentage of the share price. The price/earnings (P/E) ratio is the share price divided by last year's earnings per share, excluding exceptional items. Other details: Ex rights; Ex dividend; A ex rights; Market suspended; P partly paid; N nil paid; Shs AM Stock

Source: FT Information

## The Independent Index

The index allows you to access real-time share prices by phone from London Stock Exchange. Simply dial 0891 123 333, and when prompted to do so, enter the 4-digit code printed next to each share. To access the latest financial reports, dial 0891 123 333 followed by one of the two-digit codes below.

FTSE 100 - Real-time: 00 Sterling Rates 04 Privatisation issues 36 UK Stock Market Report 01 Button Report 05 Water Shares 38 UK Company News 02 Wall St Report 20 Electricity Shares 40 Foreign Exchange 03 Tokyo Market 21 High Street Banks 41

For assistance, call our helpline 071 473 3360 (8am-5pm)

## Market leaders: Top 20 volumes

| Stock    | Vol 000 | Stock          | Vol 000 | Stock          | Vol 000 |
|----------|---------|----------------|---------|----------------|---------|
| Stobart  | 560,000 | B&Q            | 347,400 | Motorway       | 125,000 |
| BT       | 180,000 | Redeveloped    | 352,000 | Greens         | 220,000 |
| Centrica | 150,000 | Telecoms       | 150,000 | Barclays       | 150,000 |
| Unilever | 120,000 | Post & Telecom | 90,000  | BP             | 75,000  |
| Telewest | 100,000 | Post & Bus Acq | 90,000  | ITF            | 70,000  |
|          |         |                |         | Anglo American | 60,000  |
|          |         |                |         | Standard       | 55,000  |
|          |         |                |         | National Bank  | 50,000  |

FTSE 100 Index hour by hour

| Open  | 4247.0 up 326 | 11.00 4252.8 up 380 | 14.00 4265.0 up 457 |
|-------|---------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| 09.00 | 4248.0 up 338 | 12.00 4257.1 up 423 | 16.00 4266.0 up 533 |
| 10.00 | 4250.0 up 450 | 13.00 4259.0 up 559 | Close 4270.7 up 559 |

14.00 4265.0 up 457

15.00 4261.0 up 467

16.00 4266.0 up 533

Close 4270.7 up 559

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# Mandella eloquent as he takes to world stage

## Racing

GREG WOOD  
reports from Dubai

Wherever it was that Richard Mandella learned to train racehorses, he clearly skipped a class. It was the one which most British trainers seem to have taken twice, where they learn to be suspicious, aloof and evasive – everything, in fact, that Mandella is not.

The American will saddle Siphon and Sandpit, the first and second favourites in the Dubai World Cup, the richest race on the planet, this Saturday, which is pressure enough in itself. Yet even after hearing yesterday that both had drawn a difficult wide stall for the \$4m (£2.5m) event, Mandella discussed their chances with a willingness and turn of phrase which would appal many of his British counterparts.

"The way the race-track's set up here, I don't think it makes a lot of difference," he said. "Siphon [draw 10] will be spinning his tyres and going to

the front when he leaves. There's not much we can do to change that and I wouldn't want to try. We're just happy to be in there. Two bullets are always better than one and I couldn't split them."

Both Ladbrokes and Hills make Siphon their favourite for Saturday's main event at around 5-2, while Sandpit, who recently finished just behind Siphon in the Santa Anita Handicap when running on dirt

for the first time, is 7-2 with Ladbrokes. That the dirt-hardened Americans are rated so highly is not surprising given that they filled the first three places in last year's inaugural World Cup, and it is a measure of the task facing Helios, last October's brilliant Prix d'Arc de Triomphe winner, that he is freshly available at 6-1 with William Hill.

For British punters, a flat race of such quality between the jumping pinnacles of Chel-

tenham and Aintree may be a difficult concept to grasp. Yet the standard of Saturday's 10-furlong contest is undeniable, not least when summed up by Mandella as only an American can.

"Flemensfirth looks a million dollars," the trainer said. "He breezed a mile in 1.35 and changed here last week and he has a great race record. Helios won the Arc pulled up, and how great a horse does it take to do that? Singspiel, if he can adapt from dirt to turf is a great horse too, it's just one after another. The Japanese mare

[Hokuto Vega]

is 10 for 10, so

how are you going to know what that means until it happens?"

Five of the 13 runners will run for British yards, with John Gosden's Flemensfirth (10-1) and Singspiel (6-1), who won the world's second-richest race, the Japan Cup, for Michael Stoute last year, reckoned to stand the greatest chance of success. They drew stalls six and two respectively yesterday, while Helios is close to the rail. However, Richard Hills, the man who will be steering Even Top, was not

unduly concerned.

"It all depends on how you

run this course," he said, and having enjoyed an extremely profitable winter on the dirt of Nad Al Sheba, he should know.

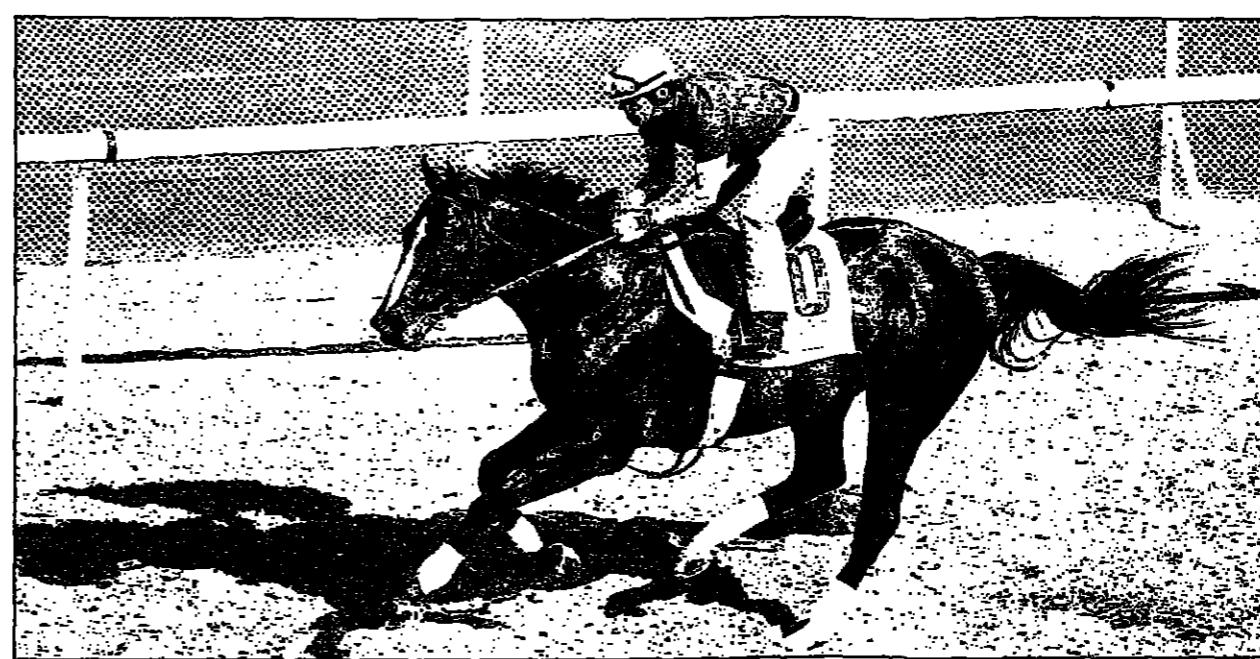
"There are long straights and long corners so there's plenty of time to move around."

A more important factor than the draw for all the European challengers will be their affinity, or otherwise, with Dubai's dirt track. Even Top has at least been acclimatising for almost two months, and always

gallops behind another horse to give him a taste of the kick-back, but whether he will enjoy receiving constant facefuls of the stuff on Saturday is impossible to say. "I don't know if you'd call it an advantage for us," Mandella said, "but for us there's a better confidence level. We know we've done it."

With Juggler, from Australia also in the field, the second Dubai World Cup will include Group One winners from four

continents, with total earnings of \$22m (£13.75m), while victory for the Japanese mare Hokuto Vega would push her past Cigar, the winner of the race 12 months ago, as the highest earner in the sport's history. Great quantities of honour and cash will be at stake on the Dubai dirt this Saturday, and British punters who still believe that the race is little more than a gimmick have just three days left to see sense.



Photograph: Julian Herbert/Allsport

## Aintree ban riles McCoy

Tony McCoy's agent, Dave Roberts, yesterday called for a Jockey Club inquiry after the jockey was belatedly ruled out of the Grand National following a fall at Uttoxeter last Tuesday. McCoy was originally signed off for 10 days for concussion by the racecourse doctor, Andrew Toman. However,

**RICHARD EDMONDSON.**  
NAP: Greenback  
(Ascot 3.05)  
NB: Hale Derring  
(Ascot 4.10)

the Jockey Club's chief medical adviser, Dr Michael Turner, ruling the initial ban "inappropriate", increased it to 21 days.

"Tony is upset that the decision took so long to be made," Roberts said, "and that he was informed at 10.30 at night. The doctor at the racecourse allowed Tony to drive home from Uttoxeter. If he was unconscious for three minutes this should never have been allowed."

Dr Turner said: "The racecourse doctor did not follow the Rules of Racing and handed Tony an inappropriate suspension, which had to be modified. I have merely imposed the Rules and rectified the error."

## Balding fine is quashed

Tony Balding has succeeded in his appeal against a £1,000 fine for the running of Polden Pride at Exeter last Wednesday. A 30-day ban on the horse, who was found by the stewards to have not obtained the best possible placing in finishing second, was quashed by the Jockey Club Disciplinary Committee. Polden Pride's jockey, Barry Bentont, will have to serve a six-day suspension, reduced from eight days. Balding said: "The horse was at Exeter to do his best. The committee accepted that, and that the jockey misunderstood his instructions from me."

**2.30 FAIRVIEW NEW HOMES NOVICE CHASE (CLASS C) £1,600, added 110yds Penalty Value £10,892**

1. PPGP BALDWIN (21) Mrs A Hobson 9 11.0 D White V  
2. 4PSPZ BROWN ROSE (21) M J Hendson Ms R Henderson 9 11.9 D White V  
3. 3-FAIS EXTERIOR PROFILES (29) Eddo Padias Lth N Tatton-Davis 7 11.9 T Murphy  
4. 4-SP39 ELEGANCE (21) W R King 9 11.9 D White V  
5. PPGP MAJOR NOVA (20) Mrs G Lich N Smith 8 11.9 P White  
6. 0-PPGP PENINSULA (20) Mrs Ane Taylor 7 11.9 R Densmore B  
7. 3-FAIS WISQUINN (20) Mrs Lycia Wilson N Henderson 7 11.9 M A Piggott B  
8. 0-SP39 FAIRVIEW NEW HOMES (21) Mrs A Hobson 9 11.9 D White V

BETTING: 5-2 Exeter Padias, 4-1 Jolliffe, 9-2 Mrs Hobson, 3-2 Padias, 9-1 Major Nova, 1-2 Glendale, 2-1 Baldwin, 3-1 Green Rose.

**FORM GUIDE:**

**THE FLYING PHANTOM**, a fair runner when he has been on the Pari-Mutuel in 1995, made a bright start when he had a decent off the pace and ran in 10th. With the form working out well at Wincanton yesterday, his run in almost 17 months. With the form working out well – Give and Take went on to win unchallenged at Exeter – and the extra half-mile can't be even more to his benefit. The Flying Phantom has a good chance of staying for his early departure in the Supreme Novice Hurdle at the Cheltenham Festival, Disallowed, whose form is excellent, is the next best bet. The Flying Phantom has a good chance of staying for his early departure in the Supreme Novice Hurdle at the Cheltenham Festival. He's due to play an active role in this year's chumming company. Paddy Padias has more on his plate than when winning a conditional jockey's handicap over this course and distance for the first time, and a welcome winner of a juvenile race at Cheltenham first time out. Her second to Corinto Begone at Wincanton look new when the winner went on to score Sardou's Imperial Cup and finish second in the County Hurdle at Cheltenham and then won the County Hurdle at Cheltenham. She then won her race and a part-miler at Doncaster, which was clearly steady by the time she got to the County Hurdle at Cheltenham. She's due to play an active role in this year's chumming company. Paddy Padias has more on his plate than when winning a conditional jockey's handicap over this course and distance for the first time, and a welcome winner of a juvenile race at Cheltenham first time out. Her second to Corinto Begone at Wincanton look new when the winner went on to score Sardou's Imperial Cup and finish second in the County Hurdle at Cheltenham and then won the County Hurdle at Cheltenham. She then won her race and a part-miler at Doncaster, which was clearly steady by the time she got to the County Hurdle at Cheltenham. 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# The enduring gifts of three wise men

Ahead of the Easter weekend biographical trilogy on BBC2, Ken Jones offers his own insight into the minds and methods of three outstanding football men, born within a stone's throw of one another in the west of Scotland and each destined for managerial greatness

**A**ny serious attempt to chronicle the impact made on football in one era by Matt Busby, Bill Shankly and Jock Stein requires an understanding of the important influences that shaped them.

Shankly's description of the marvellous teamwork central to Liverpool's success under his passionate management as "football socialism" and the bond he forged with the club's supporters were statements about working class values, that innate sense of fairness and mutual dependence familiar to all who were born into mining communities.

In the television trilogy *Arena: Busby, Stein and Shankly - The Football Men* that goes out on BBC2 over Easter weekend, Hugh McIlvanney sees them not merely as great figures in the game, men of wise and independent virtue, but as representatives of the people.

Even allowing for its prolific reputation in football (the area around Shankly's birthplace, Glenbank, sent out 50 professional players including 11 internationals), that three such notable managers should be born within a few miles of each other in the West of Scotland coalfield is in itself remarkable.

All three knew the hardships and perils of working underground, and with their young athlete's bodies, and the intelligence, and the courage and the drive that would lead to so many triumphs they learned what they wanted.

Stein would state that he never expected to come across better men than he worked with in the pits (sectarian differences had no currency at the coalface). If more at ease in football's upper circles, Busby too took strength from working class upbringing, strength that enabled him to overcome terrible injuries sustained in the Munich disaster and create another team. Shankly was never less than utterly true to his roots, carrying a deep suspicion of directors to



Bill Shankly (left), Matt Busby and Jock Stein (right): Not merely great figures in the game, men of wise and independent virtue, but representatives of the people

his grave. "The only song I knew by heart was the Red Flag," he once said.

If there is more than a hint of similar political affiliation in McIlvanney's narrative, and Frank Hanly's imaginative and sensitive direction, it ought not to trouble them. The truth about Busby, Shankly and Stein, one that affects me personally, is that they gave no evidence of backsliding. Upon being made a Freeman of Manchester, resplendent in formal attire, Busby began with the words: "I was born in a pitman's cottage." Shankly with his Cagneyesque poses and acute sense of imagery - "I'll visit London again when it's completed," he said in retirement - never lost sight of boyhood experiences.

Enthusiasm was all. "Players who don't dedicate themselves to the game and forget their duty to the supporters should be jailed," he snapped.

Unlike his two compatriots, both pre-World War Two internationals, Stein achieved no distinction as a player until Celtic recruited him from the Welsh non-League club Llanelli as a reserve centre-half. Selected for the first team in an emergency, he kept his place and led Celtic to victory in the Scottish Cup final.

It is Stein's return to Parkhead, after a successful apprenticeship in management with Dunfermline and Hibernian that brought him to the attention of clubs in England, that provides the most fascinating insights.

The music is emotive; the troubled 30s blues of Duke Ellington over stark images of life in the coalfields; a forgotten music hall artist, Bob Smith, singing the "Red Flag" with stirring clarity; the haunting "Fields of Athenry" emphasising the pernicious awfulness of immigrant life in the east Glasgow ghettos.

Stein's arrival back at the club he would transform into a major European force is attended by Dean Martin's version of "Return to me". It was not without pain. Only the fourth manager Celtic had ever appointed, the first non-Catholic, Stein had to suffer the resentment of fellow Protestants he had thought to be friends. Appalled by bigotry in all its forms, he took their

rejection in his stride. "They proved they weren't my friends," he said.

Considering that Stein had to overcome personal difficulties imposed by sectarianism and cut through the insularity of Scottish football, there is a case for concluding that he established a slight edge in management over Busby and Shankly and such redoubtable contemporaries as Alf Ramsey, Bill Nicholson and Don Revie.

Importantly, I think, all abided by a creed of mutual loyalty. From the beginning it was Busby's resolve to treat players in a way that players of his day were not treated. The most important thing about Shankly was that he could convey his enthusiasm to the players. None of them allowed

liberties to be taken, but what set Stein apart (he could be asсты as they come when dealing with problems in the dressing room and some thought him to be bit of a bully) was the understanding that football had to be set in a wider context.

Shankly and Liverpool were made for each other. The City was Glasgow with a different accent. "It was the place in football I was looking for,"

he said. "There was a great passion for the game." He tapped it to such great effect that his legacy has become a legend. Bob Paisley achieved great things in successive winning the European Cup three times, a prize that eluded Shankly, but the foundations were laid long ago in Glenbank.

Celtic's 2-1 defeat of Internazionale to win the European Cup in 1967, the first success by a British club in the competition, brought Stein recognition throughout football. "John, you're immortal," Shankly said to him in the dressing room afterwards. Seeing again the devastating effect of Celtic's controlled surges on the archetypal defensive play, you can only marvel at the improvement Stein brought about in players who, by then, would have probably drifted into obscurity but for his presence among them.

A year later, Manchester United matched Celtic's distinction when overcoming Benfica on a night of great emotion at Wembley. For Busby it was, at best, the realisation of a vision lost in the wreckage of an airliner.

The differences that emerge from the careers of Busby, Shankly and Stein make it abundantly evident that there is no absolute method of managing a team. Busby himself would have claimed no great prowess as a tactician - "too much mind will destroy the game," he once said in a moment of exasperation - but none had keener eyes for a player or a clearer idea of blend.

In Shankly's mind, enthusiasm, honesty and togetherness were essential. "Every player who comes here is under scrutiny from the moment he arrives," he can be heard saying. "I know the colour of their eyes, every one of them." The tenets he laid down were simple but inviolable: don't let attackers turn and, if they do, track them down quickly. Never run the ball out of the penalty area and always support the man in possession. What Liverpool were then they are now. Shankly's mark is still on them.

Stein was a winner because he was smarter than most of his competition, because he was an unyielding perfectionist and because he imposed his will on his players with the sheer force of his personality. He made sure that he had some pretty good players, too.

There are managers who are disciplinarians and fitness fanatics and they are pale imitations of these three men. How they would have coped with today's circumstances, ever escalating salaries and the influence of agents is another story. Ian St John is convinced that Busby and Shankly colluded to keep matters in check after the removal of the maximum wage. "They didn't play a great deal of importance on money," he said.

Times change, maybe for the worse, maybe for the better, but this account of three tremendous careers in football reminds us that no amount of corporate development can obliterate the game's working class history.

*Arena - Busby, Stein and Shankly, the Football Men score Friday, 9.30pm, BBC2.*

## West Ham favourites for signature of Lomas

ALAN NIXON

Manchester City's Steve Lomas looks set to sign for West Ham in a shock £2.5m transfer deadline deal. Harry Redknapp, the West Ham manager, agreed a price for the Northern Ireland midfielder with City's Frank Clark yesterday.

Redknapp wants to strengthen his team despite the Hammers' recent upturn in results and has money to invest on the hard-working Lomas.

Coventry's manager, Gordon Strachan, still hopes to persuade Lomas to stay with his struggling side but West Ham are the firm favourites to sign Lomas, who was not offered a new contract at City.

Blackburn's caretaker manager, Tony Parkes, has been assured that his future at Ewood Park is safe. Roy Hodgson, who is due to take over at Blackburn in the summer, has dismissed reports that he intends to bring in his own backroom staff.

Parkes, who has presided over a revival in Rovers' fortunes, said: "Roy was very concerned by the stories and called me. He has made his feelings

clear and there's no problem as far as I am concerned."

There had been reports that Bob Houghton, a colleague of Hodgson's in his days at Bristol City and Malmö, or Sean Kelly, a former England goalkeeper coach, were being lined up for jobs at Ewood Park.

Bristol City's chairman, Scott Davidson, wants to waste no time in appointing a replacement for Joe Jordan, who left the 10th-placed Second Division club by mutual consent on Monday. Davidson said he had already received a number of applications. John Ward, the former Bristol Rovers manager, and Bournemouth's manager, Mel Machin, have been linked with the vacancy.

Alex Ferguson has dismissed reports in foreign newspapers that he is interested in signing either Barcelona's Brazilian striker, Ronaldo, or Sean Dundee, the Karlsruhe striker. Ronaldo was reported in the Spanish press to be considering offers from United, Milan and Paris Saint-Germain. The South African-born Dundee, now eligible for Germany, was said to have been watched by Ferguson during his club's 2-0 defeat by Bayern Munich on Sunday.

Supporters at Scottish League matches are being encouraged to report misbehaving fans in a Scottish Football Association initiative to stamp out crowd trouble.

After a meeting between club representatives hosted by the SFA at Stirling's Forthbank Stadium, it was decided to target fans who spit or throw missiles.

### TODAY'S NUMBER

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The number of years in jail that the boxing promoter Don King faces if he is found guilty at re-trial in New York of insurance fraud. King also faces a fine of \$2.25m (£1.4m). The original jury was unable to reach a verdict.

## Wales do without Crossley

Mark Crossley, the Nottingham Forest goalkeeper, has pulled out of the Wales squad for Saturday's World Cup qualifier against Belgium because of a back injury.

Crossley managed to play in Forest's 1-1 draw against Middlesbrough at the Riverside Stadium on Monday night, but he is suffering from a slipped disc which is preventing him from training in between matches and has told Bobby Gould, the Wales manager, that he will not be joining up with the team.

Crossley intends to nurse himself through relegation-threatened Forest's remaining five league games before having treatment for the injury.

"I'm gutted about it but I've had to drop out of the Wales squad," said Crossley, who made an impressive international debut in last month's friendly against the Republic of Ireland.

"I've spoken to Bob and he knows what the situation is."

Gould, anticipating Crossley's problems, included four goalkeepers in his original squad in Neville Southall, Crossley, Andy Marriott and Paul Jones, and he is also hoping that Mark Hughes will recover from a groin strain in time to face the Belgians.

Hughes appeared as a second-half substitute in Chelsea's 1-0 defeat at Middlesbrough at the weekend despite his injury, but will delay joining the squad.

"Mark is staying at Chelsea for treatment for the next couple of days, but I'm still hopeful that he'll be fit for Saturday," Gould added. He has called up the Huddersfield Town defender Marcus Browning in case Hughes has to drop out.

Belgium could be without the Newcastle centre-back Philippe Albert, who suffered a knee injury during Sunday's 1-1 with Wimbledon.

Arsenal's Patrick Vieira and Franck Leboeuf of Chelsea were both named in France's provisional squad of 37 for next year's World Cup, but there was still no place for Eric Cantona or David Ginola.

From the list, Aimé Jacquet will pick a reduced squad of 18 for the friendly international against Sweden at Parc des Princes next Wednesday.

Middlesbrough Football Club will today have the leading QC George Carmen appearing on their behalf at their appeal before a Football Association Commission against the deduction of three points for their refusal to play at Blackburn earlier this season.

No-one who had seen Mr Carmen in action would doubt the wisdom of seeking his assistance. Nonetheless, his presence will raise for many the unwelcome spectre of increased intervention in sporting matters by lawyers and the courts.

This legal intervention can take many forms. In 1995, Duncan Ferguson felt it at its most severe when he was sentenced to three months in jail after headbutting an opposing player when playing for Rangers. In the same year, Manchester United's Eric Cantona was sentenced to two weeks' imprisonment - committed to 120 hours community service on appeal - for his karate kick on a Crystal Palace fan. Despite the high profile of these two cases, criminal sanctions for participants in sporting events are still relatively rare.

A growing area of legal recourse is the seeking of damages for sporting injuries. Recently, Bradford City instigated legal proceedings on behalf of their player, Gordon Watson, against the Huddersfield Town defender Kevin Gray following a tackle on Watson by Gray which resulted in the Huddersfield

player suffering a double fracture of the leg. Such actions are not always successful.

In 1994 Chester's Paul Elliott lost when he sued Liverpool's Dean Saunders after a tackle which ended Elliott's career.

The judge decided that Saunders did not intend to hurt Elliott and that Saunders was not guilty of an unacceptable standard of play.

Players are not the only ones subject to damages claims. In a case which received widespread publicity last year, a referee of a colts rugby match was held liable for a serious back injury caused to a player when a scrum collapsed. The decision was confirmed by the Court of Appeal.

However, the judge was at pains to indicate the exceptional circumstances of the case - in particular that it was a colts game and the fact that the rules of rugby were modified for such games, which was significant in giving rise to liability in this case. Interestingly, the plaintiff had also sued the opposing tight-head prop, but the judge held that there was no evidence that the prop did anything deliberate to bring down the scrum and so the claim against him failed.

Perhaps the most significant

Middlesbrough's latest big-money signing is a lawyer. It is symbolic of a growing trend, argues Dan Tench, an expert on sport and the law

Commission (agreed by all member clubs at its inception) the League can "impose such penalties by way of reprimand, fine, suspension, deduction of points, expulsion" or any combination of those punishments as it thinks fit.

If the FA's three-man commission upholds the deduction of three points, Middlesbrough will be tempted to take their case to a court of law. If they do, the precedents are by no means clear.

Duncan Ferguson was successful when he sought to quash the decision of the Scottish Football Association to impose a 12-match ban on him for the heading butting on for which he was sent to prison. The court decided that the SFA had not followed its own rules properly.

But the parameters of such actions are not clear. When the Football League took action against the Football Association in 1991 after the Football Association proposed to establish the Premiership, the judge held that the Football Association was not a body which was subject to the review of the courts.

The increasing legalisation of sport is reflected in the fact that presently, nine Premiership clubs have lawyers on their boards. With football's financial rewards continually growing, and the legal issues getting ever more complex, this number is likely only to increase.

In response Anthony Grabner QC, who is representing the League, will certainly respond that under Rule Seven of the Premier League's Power of

Review, "he feels it be back in training by Sunday and that would give a full week of training leading up to the final."

At the Italian squad's training camp in Florence, the player himself said: "The doctor has told me I have to rest for three days, but then I can start work. My aim is to become the first Italian to win a cup in England and I hope I can make the Coca-Cola Cup final, because I know we can [win] it."

Pressed on the rest of the season, however, Ravanello was non-committal. "Not only do I think we can win at least one of the cups, but I'm convinced we'll stay in the Premiership," he said.

They have gleaned two precious points from successive 1-1 draws away to fellow stragglers Sunderland and Middlesbrough. Now they must take full advantage of their three remaining home games if Forest are to escape relegation.

"It's so tight at the bottom of the table that it looks like the fight to stay up is going to go all the way to the end of the season," Haland said.

"We're struggling but the morale is still good at the club and that can be a big help. We're hanging in there and we're quite confident that we'll stay up."

Whether Haland remains at the City Ground to play his part in the survival battle will become clear by tomorrow. The Norwegian international, who scored Forest's goal against Boro on Monday night, has until tomorrow's transfer deadline to sign an extension to his existing contract, which expires in the summer.

Fabrizio Ravanello has been given leave of absence by the Italian coach, Cesare Maldini, to miss this week's World Cup double-header dates with Moldova and Poland, enhancing the Middlesbrough striker's chances of making the Coca-Cola Cup final.

Bryan Robson, Ravanello's club manager, is increasingly hopeful that he will overcome a hamstring problem before Boro face Leicester at Wembley on April 6. But while the former Juventus player is confident of making the final he was not prepared to discuss his future at the Riverside.

Ravanello has missed Boro's last two games through injury, although he'll be back in training by Sunday and that would give a full week of training leading up to the final."

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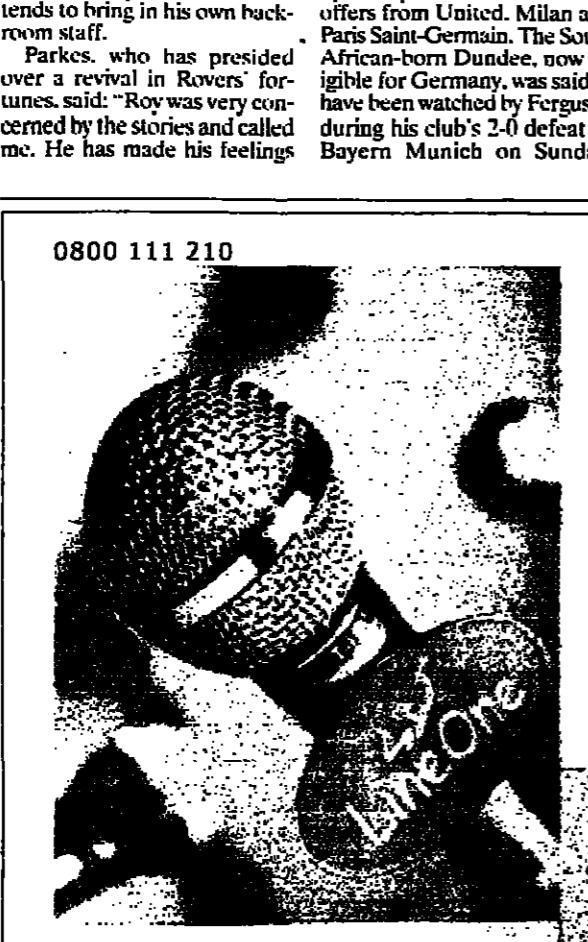
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Chris Hewett on the Lions for  
South Africa, page 28

# sport

**Three wise men**  
Ken Jones on Busby, Stein  
and Shankly, page 30

## Hoddle stays calm through injury time

GLENN MOORE

Football Correspondent

Given the daily medical bulletins being issued from Team England, it was no surprise to see a M\*A\*S\*H-style tent erected at the corner of the training field at Bisham Abbey yesterday. With red markings on its white fabric, it looked just like a field hospital and one expected to see Hot Lips or Hawkeye to come rushing out to meet a laden helicopter at any moment.

Instead, there was Glenn Hoddle doing his impression of Major Burns as he counted the casualties in his dwindling England squad and insisting nothing was amiss.

The England coach was reduced to putting on a training session for just six outfield players yesterday, which tested even his expertise. This was partly because the survivors of Monday night's Highbury encounter were allowed to rest, but also because, of his original 25-man squad, five never turned up and eight others are carrying injuries.

The upshot was a SOS for reinforcements, with Stan Collymore, who could not even get into the Liverpool team a week ago, leading the way. Hoddle saw him at Highbury and said: "He has impressed me recently. In Europe last week and at Arsenal, the appetite was there, the talent has always been there. Had he been match-sharp he could have had three at Highbury, but at least he was in there getting chances." Collymore,



No legs eleven: Because of injuries and fatigue, Glenn Hoddle was forced to take a training session for just six players at Bisham Abbey yesterday

Photograph: David Ashdown

who disappointed in winning two caps in 1995, said: "I'm delighted. You can't judge someone on just a couple of games."

Phil Neville has also been summoned along with Stuart Pearce, while David May was called up on Sunday. With Saturday's match against Mexico only being a friendly, Hoddle

originally left Pearce out so the Nottingham Forest caretaker manager could concentrate on club matters – this is transfer deadline week. However, he rang Pearce yesterday and asked him to Bisham on the understanding he would play.

Of the injured, Gary Neville, Tony Adams and Gareth South-

gate (all ankle), are most doubtful. Matt Le Tissier will be assessed once Saturday's injection in his foot has taken full effect.

"He is very sore and tender, so we won't know how he is until Thursday," Hoddle said.

Graeme Souness, Le Tissier's club manager, is unhappy with the call-up, and said: "I don't

want Matt written off for the season like Paul Gascoigne was after training with England."

An aggrieved Hoddle re-

sponded: "Graeme was not here when Gazza was. If he wants to phone me and ask what was done, he can. The injured players will be well treated here. They may receive differ-

ent treatment from their clubs – the guys working here are at the very top."

Hoddle also rejected suggestions that it was a mistake to arrange the match. "My first four games were World Cup qualifiers and this is the first chance I have had to experiment. It is common sense to take it. At this stage of

next season, I will probably settle for a training camp. However, he admitted: "If I had had a crystal ball six months ago and knew how many players would be injured, I may have just done that anyway."

It should have been obvious that with the season reaching a climax, managers would be re-

luctant to release players who were carrying injuries. However, the Premiership programme had to be cancelled because of matches elsewhere and it is a chance for Hoddle to see other players and debrief the survivors from the Italy game – one reason why he has insisted the likes of Le Tissier come.

Unavailable through injury when squad was picked



Fit members of the squad: \*James, \*Redknapp, \*Fowler, \*Keown, \*Wright, Butt, Flowers, Martyn, Lee, Le Saux, Betty, Incé (12). \* did not train yesterday having played Monday. Called up: Pearce, Collymore, P Neville, May.

Selected but never arrived at Bisham because of injury

Arrived at Bisham but yet to train because of injury and doubtful for Saturday's match

## 'I wish to congratulate you for your act of sportsmanship'

GLENN MOORE

Less than a week after incurring the displeasure of Uefa, football's European governing body, for supporting the sacked Liverpool dockers, Robbie Fowler was yesterday canonised by Fifa for his sportsmanship.

Sepp Blatter, the executive secretary of the game's world governing body, thanked Fowler by fax for "helping maintain the integrity of the game".

Fowler himself was keeping quiet yesterday, which may have been a good idea given the bizarre nature of some of the tributes. One tabloid newspaper tried to present him with an old and unscripted cup for being the sportsman of the decade.

Television pictures suggested Fowler had told Gerald Ashby that he had been after the referee had awarded a penalty following his tumble over David Seaman at Highbury on Monday night.

Robbie felt the need to point out that Seaman hadn't touched him. Stan Collymore, his Liverpool strike partner, said yesterday, "A lot of players would have just left it at the referee's whistle."

"I can't say what the team's reaction would have been if [the penalty had been revoked] and the game had ended 1-1." David James, the Liverpool goalkeeper, said, "Different people in the squad would react in different ways. More generally

I am not in favour of bringing in television for those decisions. The human element is one of the reasons people like football."

Both players had initially thought Fowler was trying to save Seaman from being sent off.

Blatter had no doubt. His fax read: "I wish to congratulate you for the act of sportsmanship which you demonstrated. Visibly trying to persuade the referee from awarding a penalty in your favour did you great honour. It is the kind of gesture

which helps maintain the integrity of the game."

"At a time when there is a disturbing trend towards cheating, and when Fifa is appealing to players (especially in the professional game) to help referees rather than deceive them, your example at this vital moment in such an important match should set an example to younger players and fellow professionals alike. Thank you for helping Fifa in its efforts for the good of the game."

Gordon Taylor, chief executive of the players' union, the PFA, said: "I'd like any youngster coming into the game to use him as a role model for what he did. Not only was he clearly admitting he did not deserve a penalty, but also showing his concern as a fellow professional might be sent off. I know Robbie has a reputation for being a little bit of a scallywag on occasions, but nobody could fault him here."

The beaten manager was just as generous about Fowler, but

not about Ashby. "It was a great gesture by Fowler and I would like to give him an award for fair play," said Arsène Wenger, who then added: "But if he got that, I would also have to give the referee an award for stupidity."

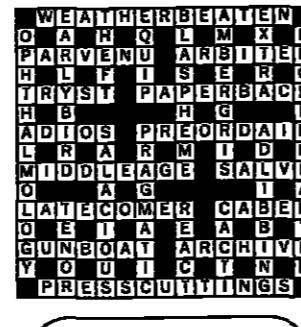
Steve Lodge, the FA Cup final referee, said: "The first time I saw it I thought it was a harsh decision. Then I saw it again and thought he had clipped the back leg. Other referees have seen it the other way. It shows what a hard decision it was. You can see why he gave it."

### THE INDEPENDENT CROSSWORD

No. 3256. Wednesday 26 March

By Agatha

Monday's Solution



**ACROSS**

- Cry of pain? It's the old disc! (4)
- Price so steep, so argue out a settlement! (10)
- Lines on style from Don Juan, for example (4-4)
- Makes small amount of progress in Winchester (6)
- Practise fighting with soldiers in tough old state (6)
- Fresh catch of herring at one old penny? That was novel in Victorian times (8)
- High tars used to bring people round (8-5)
- Rustling, we hear, in France? (8)
- Caddis, later on? (6)
- Night bird in garden got out (6)
- Canute was so unlucky, making tide fall (3-5)
- Frank ahead—just! (10)
- Temporarily fastened, you say, with delicacy? (4)
- Bliss, say, holding up a pair of scales? Naturally, one breaks up! (10)
- Come up with a paper that is extraordinary (6)
- Bird after new moon is one-track (8)
- A paint spread to produce surface-sheen (6)
- Clement almost stocked following wicked crime (8)
- Expected to clutch penny in this truck? (4)
- Taking many minutes when sectioning Mum, gone crazy (4-9)
- Eric, senile, surprisingly showing tendency to recover (10)
- English characteristic in correspondence (8)
- Amulet is set to look like the real thing (8)
- Additional clauses for Syngie's main characters? (8)
- Unknown numbers, around the orient, in a ferment (6)
- A pitcher holding needs (4)

**DOWN**

- Bliss, say, holding up a pair of scales? Naturally, one breaks up! (10)
- Come up with a paper that is extraordinary (6)
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- Unknown numbers, around the orient, in a ferment (6)
- A pitcher holding needs (4)

### Middlesbrough call on Carman

BILL PIERCE

Middlesbrough will ask the Football Association today to give them back the three points the Premier League deducted after they called off their fixture at Blackburn in December at 24 hours' notice.

Boro will base their appeal, to be heard at a Heathrow hotel, to be heard at a three-man FA commission, on a claim that the League has no power to inflict such a penalty, which was also accompanied by a £50,000 fine and an order to pay Blackburn's costs for staging the fixture.

The Premier League, however, is convinced it can prove that it was legally correct to deduct the points.

Boro's case will be enhanced by the distinguished barrister George Carman, who will present their appeal. The 67-year-old QC has scored a notable series of successes in the High

Court, such as defending Imran Khan against a libel action brought by Ian Botham and Allan Lamb last year.

Carman is expected to present a formidable challenge for the Premier League's own legal representative, Anthony Grabiner QC.

The Middlesbrough manager, Bryan Robson, who insisted he had to call off the match at Blackburn on 21 December because he had 24 players injured or ill, is "hopeful" his club will win their appeal. The commission has the power to adjust the punishment, cancel it completely or even increase it.

Robson said: "We just hope that people will see common sense and understand the predicament we were in at that time."

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Blackburn will have their own legal representatives present at the appeal and may even submit that the three points Middlesbrough lost should be awarded to them.

The Premier League's spokesman Mike Lee said: "It would be inappropriate for us to comment at this stage but obviously we believe the original decision was a correct one."

It is clear that the Blackburn-Middlesbrough game will be rearranged, and another option for the appeal board is to order that Boro play it with only the players they claimed were available on 21 December.

The Premier League's rule 19 states that no club shall, without just cause, fail to fulfil its fixture obligations in respect of any League match on the appointed date or dates. The club failing... shall pay compensation to the opposing club.

Sport threatened by court action, page 30

### Brive to contest Lamaison ban

Rugby Union

CHRIS HEWETT

It is becoming the most talked about shoulder charge since JPR Williams secured a Grand Slam for Wales by barging Jean-François Gourdon into the Arms Park advertising hoardings back in 1976. Christophe Lamaison's assault on Craig Chalmers 12 days ago landed the victim in hospital and the perpetrator hot water and now looks like landing the lawyers a bumper pay day.

The French reacted furiously yesterday to the 30-day ban imposed on Lamaison, the goal-kicking centre from Brive, by a Five Nations disciplinary tribunal. Officials of Brive, the European champions, went straight for the jugular by threatening court action.

"We will be talking to the French Federation and our lawyers," Laurent Seigne, the Brive coach, said. "Rugby is a professional sport now and we have to consider if this suspension does not constitute restraint of trade." Seigne was supported by his president, Patrick Sébastien, who said: "Surely this ban should be limited to international rugby."

Ironically, Lamaison will be available for his country's next international, against Romania on 1 June. His suspension rebounds with Christophe Lamaison's assault on Craig Chalmers 12 days ago landed the victim in hospital and the perpetrator hot water and now looks like landing the lawyers a bumper pay day.

The board of the European Rugby Cup are meeting in Dublin today to present the accounts of this season's wildly successful Heineken Cup. Rumours of French and English discontent

over both the financial handling of the tournament and its long-term future were dismissed yesterday by Roger Pickering, the ERC director, who denied the existence of any move by the Welsh, Scots and Irish to expand the competition into a season-long league.

Michel Faure, one of the French delegates, said he would be offering his full support to next season's 20-team format.

In South Africa, massive public interest in the first match of this summer's Lions tour in Port Elizabeth has forced the organisers to abandon plans to host it at a township ground just outside the city. The game with an Eastern Province Invitation XV will now take place at the Boet Erasmus Stadium, a 35,000-seater Test venue, on 24 May.

And a beer to go with it.

**Bass** BEST SELLING PREMIUM CASK ALE SINCE 1777

